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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

48,840

Hepatitis C

Curse of the Woodstock generation

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Joanna Coles interviews author David Guterson

Motor racing

'Nuclear dustbin' in crisis

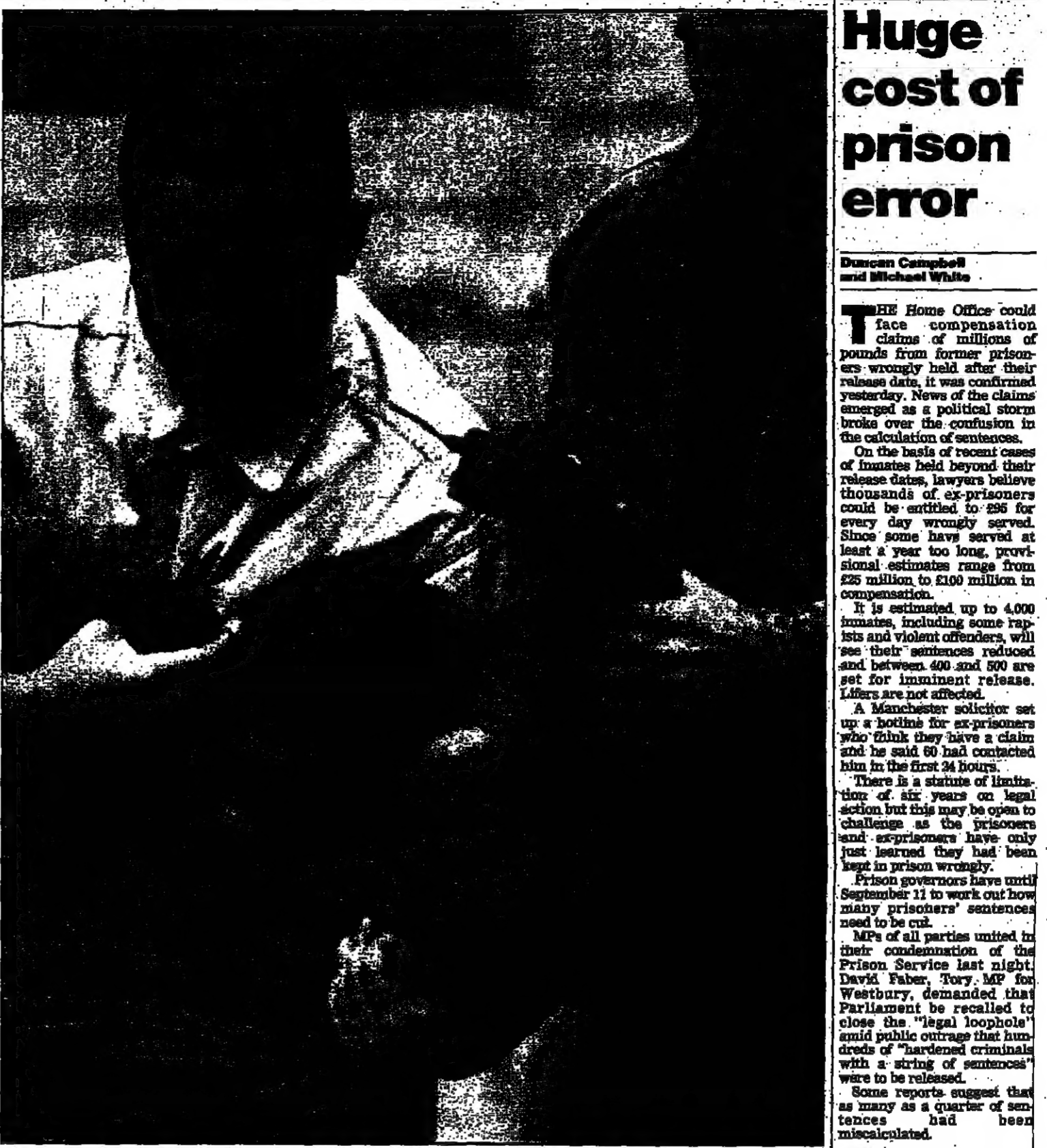
Pollution levels may have to rise

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels may increase radioactive contamination from the Thorp reprocessing plant in Cumbria as a result of plans to boost its flagging output.

breeder reactor programme — has disappeared. Even the Government's advisers had said Thorp was unnecessary and should be scrapped.

ulations, BNFL accepted further advance payments from overseas customers shortly after the first fuel entered the plant. The fuel, much of it from Japan and Germany, had already been stored at Sellafield for years, awaiting the opening of the plant.



Immigrant spokesman Ababacar Diop is removed by a policeman during yesterday's raid in Paris PHOTOGRAPH MICHEL SALER

French riot police end asylum seekers' sit-in

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

MILITARY plane is expected to leave for West Africa this weekend on the orders of the French government, carrying immigrants whose sit-in at a Paris church ended yesterday when 1,000 riot police moved in using axes and tear-gas.

tion centre after refusing to be admitted to hospital. Opposition politicians, human rights activists and church leaders denounced the government's unwillingness to negotiate with the Africans — all residents of France when a new law changed their status in 1994.



Actress Emmanuelle Béart: arrested as a sympathiser

Father Henri Coiné, the priest of St Bernard's who spent the night in the church, said that as the police stormed in, he stood at the altar and read Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech.

Where there's Mac there's brass

John Vidal

THEY looked pretty menacing: seven men and women from head office in dark blue suits and unsmiling faces. They looked as if they had come to protect Ronald McDonald, promotional clown for the world's most famous fast food outlet.

The company, which spends \$1.2 billion a year publicising a logo more people recognise than the Cross, was on a promotional visit, and donating £500 to the centre. Nobody was saying the blue suits were there in case Mr Morris made things difficult.

Freddie: "You're an activist." Morris: "What's it to do with you?" Freddie: "Have you had an invitation?" Morris: "My son is a member of this play scheme. Who are you?"

Inside

Five Japanese fishermen died after an explosion on board a deep sea trawler more than 200 miles off the Irish coast.

Britain

Five Japanese fishermen died after an explosion on board a deep sea trawler more than 200 miles off the Irish coast.

World News

Australia is to lead a new campaign for a full nuclear test ban treaty after Geneva talks failed because of Indian opposition.

Finance

Lloyd's insurance market was fighting for survival after news that two US states threatened to wreck its rescue plan.

Sport

Pakistan ran up 229 for one, with opener Saad Akhtar on 118 not out to finish only 97 behind England in the Oval Test match.

Radio and TV 2

Weather 2 Obituaries 19 Outlook Money 20-22: Arts 18 Comment 14 Letters 16

The Guardian international Umbrella

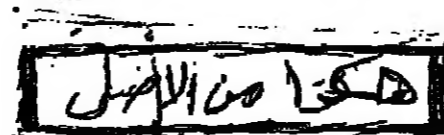


This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle. £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.

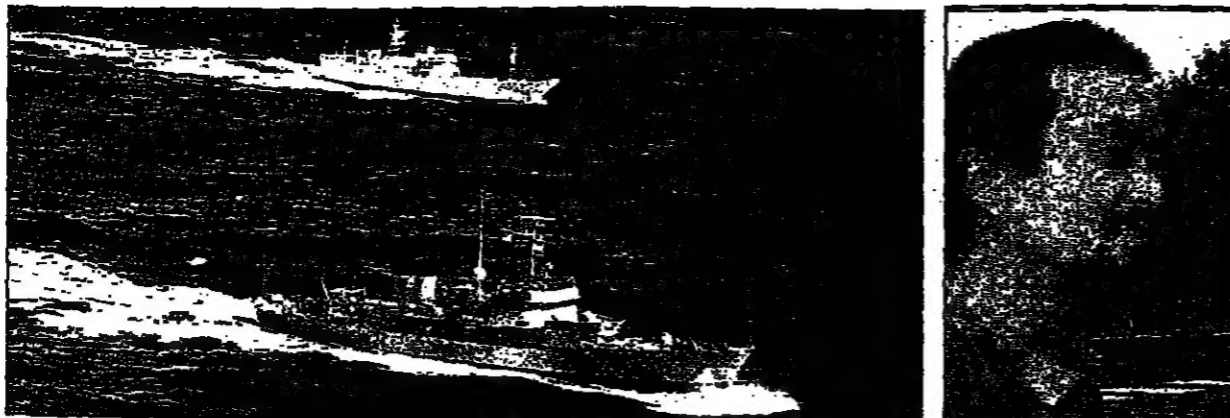
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Five killed in tuna war trawler blast



An Irish naval vessel (foreground) shadows a Japanese trawler while Minatu Maru skipper Tsukasa Nagasawa leaves court.



A Japanese fisherman on the bridge of his trawler in Castletownbere as the fishing impasse remained unresolved.

Irish impound two Japanese ships for illegal fishing as huge fleet faces tense stand-off

Owen Bowcott

FIVE Japanese fishermen were killed yesterday in an explosion on board a deep-sea trawler more than 200 miles off the Irish coast.

The blast, believed to have been triggered by freon gas leaking from a refrigerator into the engine rooms of the *Minatu Maru*, came as two other Japanese ships were being impounded in the County Cork port of Castletownbere for illegally fishing tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

Irish navy patrol vessels, monitoring the presence of a 40-strong fleet of Japanese ships on the edge of the European fishing limit 200 miles offshore, were unaware of the accident until late yesterday.

An appeal for help to evacuate the dead, and one man who was injured, eventually reached Ireland's defence forces through an agent of the ship's company in Cork, five hours after the explosion. The damaged vessel was last night attempting to limp into Galway or Castletownbere.

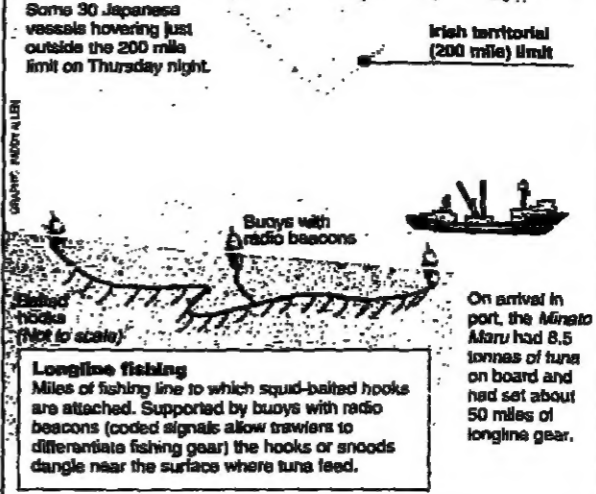
The sudden appearance of the Japanese fleet — at least twice the size of the Irish republic's entire navy — highlights the pressure on dwindling fisheries stocks worldwide and the heavy prices paid for rare species. Pursuing bluefin tuna as they migrate across the eastern Atlantic, the Japanese flotilla had been engaged in a tense stand-off with the Irish navy. The fleet was intent on recovering its floating longlines inside the 200-mile limit, while the patrol vessels were waiting to arrest them if they did.

Fish wars

Two Japanese trawlers, the 70-metre-long *Minatu Maru* and the *Shoshin Maru* were escorted from this area to Castletownbere by Irish naval patrol boats.

Some 70 nautical miles of Japanese longline gear

Some 30 Japanese vessels hovering just outside the 200-mile limit on Thursday night.



Longline fishing

Miles of fishing line to which squid-baited hooks are attached. Supported by buoys with radio beacons (coded signals allow trawlers to differentiate fishing gear) the hooks or snoods dangle near the surface where tuna feed.

On arrival in port, the *Minatu Maru* had 85 tonnes of tuna on board and had set about 50 miles of longline gear.

In Castletownbere, the 220ft *Minatu Maru* spent all day tied up by the quay while its skipper was driven to court in nearby Bandon to face a fine of up to £200,000.

The Japanese crew, who came ashore at the harbour and holiday resort, were reported to be feeling embarrassed. Mike Barnett, of Ireland's South and West Fisheries Association, who boarded the vessel, said: "They were just following the fish. Maybe they were aware of where they were. Maybe not. But everyone is being very friendly towards them. We sell a lot of herring roe to the Japanese every year and we hope this won't jeopardise the trade. "Their ships aren't taking fish from Irish boats, because we don't go after the bluefin. If anything, we are grateful for having shown there is a

restaurants as a sushi delicacy, slices can cost £20 a mouthful. "It's a delicious cross between smoked salmon and sardines," Mr Barnett said.

Environmentalists find the trade distasteful. "It's indicative of the problems of depleted fish stocks if the Japanese have to turn up in the eastern Atlantic looking for tuna," Desley Mather, Greenpeace's ocean campaigner in Dublin, said yesterday.

The Taiwanese, Koreans and Japanese have all been sailing further afield in recent years. We are starting to take more fish out of the oceans than can be sustained.

Japanese vessels have been forced to abandon the use of lengthy drift nets, dubbed "walls of death", following campaigns to save dolphins. But the longlines, costing up to £30,000 each and tethered between floating buoys fitted with radio beacons, have drawn criticism.

If left in the water more than 24 hours, they can sink, pulled under by the accumulating weight of dead fish. The baited hooks also snare seabirds. A sharp decline in the population of albatrosses in the Pacific is being linked to the growing deployment of longlines.

Irish fishermen only recently begun catching tuna — for which there is no European Union quota. Disputes over the use of drift nets two years ago culminated in violent clashes at sea between British, French, Irish and Spanish trawlers.

Naval frigates were dispatched to patrol the seas after rival crews used shotguns and rifles on each other. Rows within the EU over permissible types of landing gear have curtailed the industry. Only six Irish vessels specialise in fishing for the smaller albacore tuna. None chases the bluefin.

Meanwhile, a fourth Japanese fishing vessel, which had docked in Galway on the west coast of Ireland to change crews, yesterday ran aground as it set off to rejoin the main fleet.

Rain and strikes disrupt holiday

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THOUSANDS of rail passengers face further hold-ups over the bank holiday weekend after the start yesterday was disrupted by rail strikes and heavy rain which caused long delays on the roads.

A 24-hour strike yesterday by guards, ticket examiners and catering staff will be repeated on Tuesday. Seven train operators still controlled by British Rail are involved in the stoppage, although attempts will be made today to resolve the dispute with ScotRail.

About 96 per cent of 500 trains run by the operators were cancelled, and replaced where possible by buses. The dispute is over meal breaks and restructuring of guards' duties.

A series of accidents in wet conditions caused jams on crowded roads as the rush to get away started after lunch. Motoring organisations reported major routes very busy, but added that the poor weather forecast could reduce numbers on the roads.

A 13-mile tailback was reported northbound on the A1 yesterday after a lorry overturned near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The road was closed for three hours with diversions in other areas.

At Gatwick, scenes of long delays and passenger discontent last weekend, most flights departed on time. The airport is expected to handle 370,000 passengers during the next few days.

A further 210,000 are due to pass through Manchester, while Birmingham and Stansted are each expected to deal with 80,000 people.

The Consumers' Association yesterday accused four operators of causing "terrible delays" by operating flights too closely together. It warned that travel firms' "vastly over-optimistic" programmes took no account of numerous air traffic control delays in Europe.

Bob Tolland, a project manager for the association, said: "Airlines must not make empty promises about flight times. Air traffic delays in Europe are becoming an increasing problem, yet there is an amazing amount of tight scheduling by airlines. Tour operators and charter airlines should get more realistic about how long flights take."

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, described the comments as alarmist. He said the average delay for charter flights at Gatwick was 37 minutes last year, compared with 62 minutes in 1995. Delays over the same period had dropped from 55 to 33 minutes at Manchester and from 60 minutes to 32 minutes at Stansted.

Bourgeois police losing grass roots

The cops are having to cough up more for tip-offs, writes David Pallister

THE traditional image of the hard-drinking detective slipping into a shady pub with a bunch of fivers in his Hugo Boss suit for a petty criminal informant is apparently a thing of the past.

Detectives these days, according to Detective Superintendent Bob Taylor, the new head of the North-East Regional Crime Squad, are too middle class and educated for that sort of stinking. They prefer to go home to their families in the suburbs rather than mingle with the lower orders at the bar of the Jack the Lad.

And cops and robbers don't have the same sort of time to develop that special relationship because suspects, heaven forbid, bring their solicitors to interviews.

Supt Taylor plans to change all that. He is going to double the amount of money set aside to reward informants, or "community sources". His 250 detectives will be trained to spot and recruit small-time criminals.

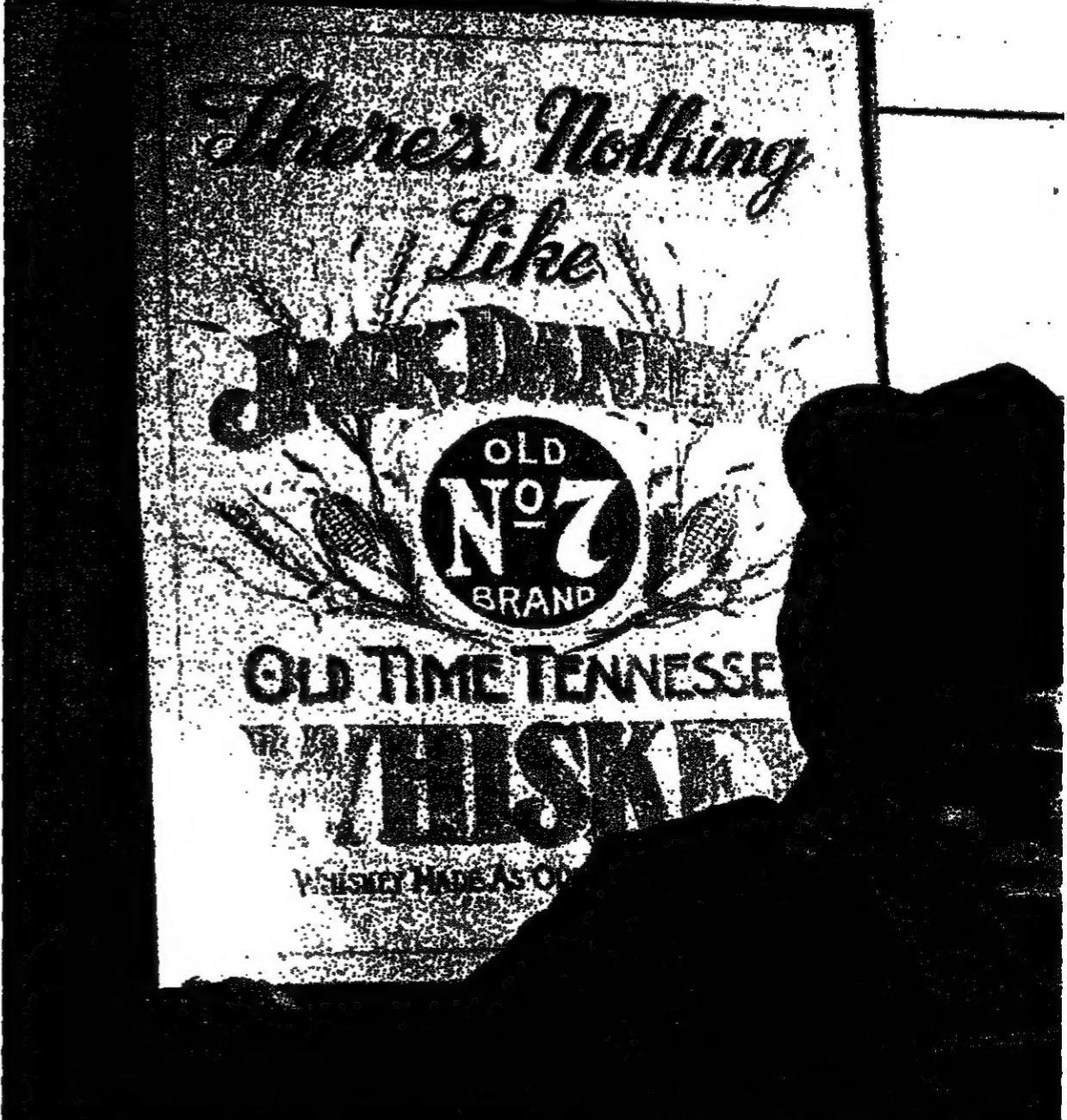
The strategy is based on his experience in West Yorkshire, where rapid payments to informants increased their numbers by 25 per cent.

"Good quality informants are a dying breed and they can be the most cost-effective way of solving major crimes such as robberies, drug offences and burglaries," he said. "It can take a team of detectives nine months to investigate a crime and bring a result. A good tip-off in the first week can solve that crime and free the detectives to get on with another job."

Despite concerns about the way informants have been used in the past — such as giving them licence to commit serious crimes — Supt Taylor said there would be strict safeguards against abuses.

"I believe it works, and I am putting a terrific effort into this at the moment. We need to get away from this idea that we are hiding in dark corners with dirty, disgusting, sly people," Supt Taylor said.

"Years ago we would wander round the pubs in the town. That doesn't happen now. Even when they wander round the town they don't go to the pubs where the villains go. There is more hostility towards police."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

It may only have happened once, but they picked up an infection more virulent than HIV. Decades later, these cleaned-up, respectable citizens are suffering from Hepatitis C, a slowly progressing liver disease for which there is little treatment and no cure.

Sarah Boseley
Outlook page 13

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Post workers delay prolonged strike

THE Communication Workers Union yesterday decided against extending the postal strike to four days as fresh talks with the Royal Mail began at the conciliation service.

Campaigners attack comic

ROAD safety campaigners criticised comedian Adrian Edmondson yesterday after he mocked drink-drive laws.

Figures released by Alcohol Concern show the number of deaths and accidents caused by drink-driving rose from 9,000 in 1994 to 10,230 in 1995.

Arms firm seeks redress

AN ARMS dealing company, whose conviction for selling machine-guns to Iraq was quashed on appeal after it emerged that senior Foreign Office and Customs officials had improperly interfered in the case, has been given leave to challenge a refusal by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to award it compensation.

Atlantic Commercial and its owner, Reginald Dunk, were convicted and fined in 1983 for selling the weapons to Iraq via Jordan.

His lawyer, Lawrence Kormanick, described the High Court move as a landmark decision. "It will clarify the law about whether limited companies are eligible for compensation," he added.

BNP chief's 'shop error'

THE British National Party's national organiser was yesterday fined £700 and ordered to pay £200 costs for flouting an enforcement notice on his home.

Dead yachtsman named

THE Israeli yachtsman who died after falling overboard from a yacht in stormy seas off Cornwall was named yesterday by his embassy as Clive Shelton, aged 46, from Tel Aviv.

Schools hit by £3 million bill

VANDALS have caused more than £3 million worth of damage to Northern Ireland schools during the summer holidays, it was revealed last night.

Errol Flynn was a Nazi. And Cary Grant was a spy. Test the claims, tomorrow in The Observer

Corporal falls to his death as military police find bodies of wife and female friend

Soldier found dead after dual killing

A SOLDIER is believed to have stabbed to death his wife and her female friend at his former marital home at Aldershot, Hampshire, in the early hours of yesterday.

Just over an hour after the killings, the 27-year-old soldier's body was found by a lorry driver after he apparently jumped off the top of a multi-storey car park in Aldershot.



Military police cordon off South Atlantic Estate, Aldershot, yesterday, and (right) an officer leaves the former marital home where the bodies were found

the estate, which is made up exclusively of army families, there had been another domestic incident at the house on Sunday and the soldier had tried to commit suicide once before.

A police spokesman said he had been receiving counselling from the army's welfare department after the break-up of his marriage.

They would not confirm reports that the wife had been served with notice to quit the house after the separation from her husband. The estate is reserved for married soldiers.



PHOTOGRAPHS: RUSSELL SACH

Inquiry on BSE checks

Stephen Bates in Brussels THE European Commission last night was investigating allegations in the Guardian that the Ministry of Agriculture evaded a 1990 instruction from Brussels for cattle exported to Europe from 1990 to be fully monitored to prevent the spread of BSE.

Missing children 'are alive'

THE parents of missing children Jodi and Tom Loughlin yesterday said they were convinced the youngsters had not drowned and were still alive.

Police combed the surrounding area for three days without finding a trace of the youngsters. They also say they have no evidence to suggest the children were abducted from the beach.

Hardline Muslims to target universities

Lucy Manning THE National Union of Students banned Mr Mohammad's previous group, Hizb-ut-Tahrir after the NUS claimed they created a feeling of intimidation and harassment on campuses.

Asylum seekers may have to live in tents

James Melville Community Affairs Editor ASYLUM seekers stripped of benefits and housing rights may soon live in tented villages while the Home Office considers their applications to stay in this country, say refugee organisations.

first introduced in February, and 2,000 housed temporarily by councils may lose shelter under rule changes. Agencies do not know how many asylum seekers with families might still be helped with accommodation under the Children Act.

'I am working to see the Islamic flag flying over Downing Street'

condemning Al-Muhajiroun... I am working to see the Islamic flag over Downing Street.

Few converts for mentor

Madeleine Bunting THE Australian vicar who is mentor of Labour leader Tony Blair issued a rallying cry to join a dawn international revolution to sceptical young Christians yesterday.

Shelter yesterday lost a High Court attempt to stop councils applying the changes retroactively, although the judge said people must be given two weeks warning to find alternative accommodation.

Shelter yesterday lost a High Court attempt to stop councils applying the changes retroactively, although the judge said people must be given two weeks warning to find alternative accommodation.

سكنا من الاجل

صباحنا من الامل

Former boyfriend gets five years' jail for attack shortly before 'ordeal' trial • Woman tells what made her decide to waive anonymity

Rape victim's home was firebombed

'Never did I think he would question me'

Hannah Pool

JULIA Mason, the rape victim who was cross examined at the Old Bailey by her attacker for six days, had her home firebombed shortly before the trial was due to start, it was revealed yesterday.

She and her boyfriend, Billy Power, were in their then home in Catford, south London, when a petrol bomb was thrown through the window by Paul Cunningham five months ago.

Cunningham, aged 26, a former boyfriend, claimed Mrs Mason was spreading rumours about him, and not bringing up her children property.

Mrs Mason, who has moved to a secret address, was not in court to hear Cunningham, of Bellingham, south-east London, sentenced to five years in a young offender's institution. Mrs Mason, who has waived her right to anonymity in the hope that no other woman has to face their attacker in court, intends to start a campaign to have the law changed.

After a lengthy trial, 43-year-old Ralston Edwards was earlier this week found guilty of twice raping Mrs Mason.

Edwards, of Catford, south-east London, approached Mrs Mason at a bus stop last December. When she got off the bus, he then pushed her into an alley way and began kissing her aggressively. Believing she had a better chance of escaping unharmed if she pacified Edwards, Mrs Mason went with him to his home.

Once in Edwards' house, which was filthy and without electricity, he subjected her to a 16-hour ordeal. Mrs Mason has since described being cross-examined by Edwards as being raped all over again.

She told the Daily Mail yesterday: "It wasn't until the first day of the trial that the police informed me that Edwards had sacked his barris-



Julia Mason: 'The filth and degradation of my ordeal was replayed in violent and vivid detail. He was reliving the rape'

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK ST GEORGE

tar. I did not know what that meant. Surely he'd employ another at the last minute? Never once did it cross my mind that he would be the one cross examining me as I stood in the witness box. Had I known two weeks before, I don't know how it would have affected me. I'd like to think I'd have mustered the strength to continue with it, but I just don't know. When I walked into the witness box and saw him ready to question me it was like being physically hit with something.

From the moment Edwards opened his mouth, the filth and degradation of my

ordeal was replayed in violent and vivid detail. He was reliving the rape and savouring every minute.

"As he continued to ask about my private life, I became distressed. The judge interrupted Edwards and said: 'Exactly why is this relevant? Where are you going with this line of questioning?' I said to her, 'He's trying to intimidate me,' and she replied, 'Don't worry. I will not let him intimidate you.'

"Edwards revealed in being able to question me the way he did in front of all those people. He was looking at me, mocking me. Try to imagine the humiliation of having

your rapist ask you whether you had your knickers on or off during the attack. I couldn't help breaking down."

"The injustice of all that happened to me was unbelievable." This led Mrs Mason to give up her anonymity.

Laywers, police officers, civil rights pressure groups have joined her call for a change in the laws to protect victims.

Professor Sue Lees, of the University of North London, who has written extensively on rape trials, said many victims see the trial as a "second" rape. A leading criminal defence lawyer,

Stephen Gilchrist, said judges needed to be bolder in intervening when an defendant is questioning a complainant.

Mr Gilchrist added: "The judge should act as the umpire and see that all parties are conducting their cases fairly. In this case the defendant knew exactly how much the judge would bend the

rules to make sure the case could not be put to appeal.

"But why should people who chose to defend themselves be allowed anymore flexibility than a trained advocate? If he chose to represent himself then he must be subject to the same constraints as would be imposed on a barrister."

Woman's right not to be terrorised should be given precedence

Sheila McLean

A LEGAL system needs to achieve balance between competing rights and interests, but it must also be sensitive to situations where the apparent equivalence of rights in fact disguises profound discrepancies.

In this situation, the rights in competition might be said to be the right of the accused to present her case without intimidation. An accused has a right to defend himself, and in some cases people may have no option but to do so. What is necessary, however, is an assessment of when that right has the potential to infringe other rights and interests of equal, or even greater, value.

The criminal law is there to seek justice, based on stringent standards of proof and with the best possible evidence adduced. The forensic arena is no place for permissible intimidation which may affect the quality of evidence or subject the accused to a form of institutional abuse.

A parallel situation, which would surely be greeted with horror, would be permitting parents who have allegedly abused their children to cross-examine them in court.

Yet the rape victim is in a similar situation. Even with a more enlightened approach from the law, the rape victim is still peculiarly vulnerable, and every bit as much in need of the highest standards of procedural sensitivity and legal sympathy as is the child.

Nor is this special pleading. As a society, we accept that certain crimes are especially torturing for their victims and we do not balk at treating special rules in these cases, even if they differentiate the procedures applied from those in others. Laws

are no less fair because they take account of differences so long as they do not discriminate. What was at stake in this case is of considerably more importance than the interest of the defendant in prosecuting his own case.

There are broadly two approaches from which it is possible to argue that an exception to the right to defend one's own case in such situations can be made. The first is, of course, the extent to which allowing self-representation further harms the victim. The much vaunted concerns of this government to offer protection to victims, to recognise their trauma, must equally apply to rape cases. Secondly, no individual's interest in defending himself can be allowed to trump the overall aim of seeking justice.

In rape cases, as in child abuse cases, the risk of intimidation, even terrorisation, with its possible subversion of evidence, is both a clear and a compelling argument for weighting the scales in favour of the victim. In addition, when an individual opts to defend himself, judges traditionally permit considerably more leeway in the questioning, since the person is not legally trained. Just how much leeway is a matter of judicial discretion but it may, as it apparently did in this case, result in the victim being subjected to examination which is irrelevant and unreasonably lengthy and which covertly allows the introduction of questions which would otherwise probably be inadmissible.

That a conviction resulted is a tribute both to the strength of the victim's case and her own personal courage and tenacity. Nonetheless, we have no right to demand the same of other victims.

Sheila McLean is Professor of Law, and Ethics in Medicine at Glasgow University

Judge 'well regarded and sensitive'

Colleagues say woman's six-day court ordeal had to be allowed

Hannah Pool

JUDGE Ann Goddard QC was chosen to preside over the trial of the multiple rapist Ralston Edwards because of her experience and sensitivity, it was disclosed yesterday.

Judge Goddard, aged 80,

has been a circuit judge since 1988 and has a reputation as a tough criminal lawyer. But she is facing criticism for allowing Edwards to cross-examine his victim for six days.

During the trial the jury sent several notes asking Edwards to stick to relevant information. After one such note, Judge Goddard said to

the jury: "I must say it is not the easiest task to defend yourself in the Old Bailey, but this is what he [Edwards] has decided to do."

"Do not even start to hold it against him."

On the fourth day of the trial she told the defendant: "Can you please come to the points of evidence that the jury may consider to be most relevant."

Stephen Holt, the prosecuting barrister in the case, jumped to the defence of Judge Goddard: "If she had prevented [Edwards] from cross-examining his witness properly, the court of appeal would be bound to quash the conviction."

"I do not think Judge Goddard could have done any more. Don't blame the players, change the rules."

"Judge Goddard had to stick by those rules. Not only did she have to ensure there are no grounds for appeal, but if she continually interrupts a defendant it can alienate the jury and make them sympathetic with him."

"That was the risk, and it nearly happened. We knew early on that they [the jury] had acquitted on two counts. We only won the others on a 10 to two majority."

While supporting calls for a review of the law, Mr Holt is aware of the problems: "Changing the law would get us into great difficulties with the European Court in Strasbourg, because it is a fundamental human right to be able to defend oneself."

Robert Roscoe, chairman of

the Law Society's criminal law committee, was at a seminar last year organised by the British Academy of Forensic Science on the cross-examination of victims and chaired by Judge Goddard.

"She is very well regarded as both a judge and a sensitive person who is aware of the problems in cases of this sort," he said.

"She had to protect the interests of the witness, but by the same token had to ensure it was a fair trial."

Mr Roscoe strongly disagreed with calls for a change in the legal system. "I do not think the general

"If the judge continually interrupts, it can alienate members of the jury"

rule about a person defending themselves should be changed on the basis of one case.

"It is a very unfortunate incident, but it is just one case which is unlikely to be repeated."

"There are very few people who go to the criminal court and defend themselves against serious allegations."

"The fact that this man was found guilty should put others off from putting their victims through such an ordeal."

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Outlook page 15

"Yeah, two million copies and it's been translated into 22 different languages," says David, as Taylor puts down his spoon and lifts the Rice Krispie bowl straight to his mouth.
Joanna Coles

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Khmer Rouge tested

Nick Cunniff-Bruce in Phnom Penh

CAMBODIA'S joint prime ministers are recommending their king to grant amnesty to one of Pol Pot's most notorious henchmen, Ieng Sary, who was closely implicated in the mass killing of the Khmer Rouge regime.

Their decision has prompted a debate on how far Phnom Penh should go to exploit the defection of Pol Pot's senior commanders. The hope is that they may spell the end of the Khmer Rouge as a serious military threat to the government, even if it remains an agent of localised terror.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh tried to encourage divisions among the rebels when he announced this week that he would also recommend revoking legislation outlawing the Khmer Rouge.

His fellow prime minister, Hun Sen, said yesterday that he and Prince Ranariddh would advise King Norodom Sihanouk to grant Mr Sary an amnesty "in the spirit of guaranteeing safety and security".

Mr Sary, aged 67, was the only Khmer Rouge leader apart from Pol Pot to be sentenced, in absentia, to death at a 1979 show trial staged by the Vietnamese-backed regime which replaced them. For nearly half a century he was Pol Pot's most intimate associate — until this month, when he was denounced by Khmer Rouge radio.

King Sihanouk said this week that he would only grant Mr Sary amnesty if urged to do so by both prime ministers, supported by a two-thirds majority of the national assembly. "Only the people have the right to tell me whether or not it is necessary to amnesty this or that criminal responsible for the national genocide."

He said he still favoured bringing Khmer Rouge leaders to justice.

Mr Sen's support for an amnesty was in response to demands from renegade Khmer Rouge commanders for a clear statement of the government's position on Mr Sary, whom they have named their leader.

Phnom Penh's military negotiators appear to be close to conceding a considerable degree of local autonomy to leaders of the break-away faction, but their task is complicated by tension between the prime ministers.



A family in Hanoi washes clothes in flood water rising around their house yesterday. Tropical storms, which have killed two people, have caused the Red River to overflow its banks in the Vietnamese capital. PHOTOGRAPH: LOIS RAMONDO

Attempt to bypass recalcitrant India and Iran Canberra steps in to salvage test ban

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

AUSTRALIA said yesterday that it would lead a campaign to revive the comprehensive test ban treaty negotiations which failed at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament last week because of Indian opposition.

Moving swiftly to salvage hopes of a permanent and to nuclear tests, Canberra said it would push for worldwide agreement, isolating the recalcitrants. It hoped for a formal signing at the United Nations next month.

Decades of expectation and 30 months of bargaining at the 61-member Geneva conference ended on Thursday without a consensus: India and Iran opposed the draft treaty.

The Comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT) is intended to outlaw all nuclear explosions, and includes procedures for monitoring and verifying compliance. The UN General Assembly can pass it by majority vote, but it remains problematical whether national parliaments

will ratify it and how on-site inspections can be enforced.

The declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China — have been accused of holding it hostage to India's agreement.

"Signatures of the treaty by the five nuclear weapons states will mean the end of one element of the nuclear arms race — the development of advanced new weapons," said Stephen Young of the British American Security Information Council. "Without testing this will be impossible."

Australia is playing its familiar role as a bridge between the non-nuclear and nuclear powers, its reputation enhanced by its opposition to the last controversial stage of France's testing programme in the Pacific.

"I am deeply committed to an end to testing and I am convinced that this historic opportunity to secure a CTBT should not be lost," its foreign minister, Alexander Downer, said yesterday.

Time is short if the treaty is to get through the UN, because the nuclear powers want to avoid reopening the text to amendment by a UN

committee on disarmament matters which meets in October.

There are barely three weeks to act before the 50th General Assembly closes on September 16. It had been hoped that a CTBT would be the crowning achievement of the anniversary year.

Analysts say that up to 170 of the UN's 186 members will sign the treaty, although non-aligned countries may demand further gestures towards disarmament by the nuclear powers.

India said it opposed the treaty because it did not commit the nuclear powers to disarmament within a specified time.

It also allowed them to refine their arsenals by laboratory tests while the nuclear "have-nots" would be permanently barred from obtaining weapons.

But support for India, which like Pakistan and Iraq is a "threshold" state, ebbed as it became clear that its stance was motivated less by principle and more by a desire to keep its options open. Iran's opposition was widely seen as a spoiling tactic.

Clinton keeps Taiwan armed with ambiguity

Andrew Higgins in Taipei

AFTER the bluster of China's missile tests off the coast of Taiwan in March, a quiet ceremony on an airstrip in Fort Worth, Texas, last month ushered in the next stage of China's dormant but still dangerous civil war.

The commander of Taiwan's air force took delivery of the first batch of 150 F-16 warplanes, the first fruit of a \$4 billion investment in an escalating arms race with China.

Recently both sides have calmed their venomous rhetoric and even begun talking, albeit at rather than with each other, about trade. Failure to reach agreement on Taiwan's links with Hong Kong after its return to China would cause huge economic damage to all sides.

Taiwan continues to seek greater international recognition and steadfastly opposes any Hong Kong-style merger with China.

But the new F-16s highlight the island's dependence on fickle American interests. It asked for the planes 16 years ago, but was turned down until President Bush agreed to the sale in 1992, in a desperate effort to win Texas votes.

A media ban at the delivery ceremony reflects Washington's unease about the deal. So too does a decision to keep the aircraft in the US until at least next summer instead of sending them straight to Taiwan.

The official US explanation is that Taiwanese pilots need time to train at a base in Arizona. But they have been training there for years.

The delivery of 50 French Mirage 2000 warplanes has been similarly put off.

The US, which does not recognise Taipei but remains its most important military partner, describes its policy as one of "strategic ambiguity". It hopes confusion over its intentions will deter Beijing from using force and Taiwan from declaring independence.

A visit to Beijing last month by the White House national security advisor, Anthony Lake, has already triggered anxiety — some say paranoia — in Taipei about Washington's intentions once the US presidential election is over. A summit between the winner and the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, is expected early next year.

"China is more interested at the moment in sorting out its affairs with the United States. But they will be back for us. They will be back after they have handled the US," said Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan's minister without portfolio.

Empty promises threaten peace

Derek Brown in Jerusalem reports on the dangerous vacuum caused by the Israeli prime minister's lack of decision-making

THE Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, promised yesterday that peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation would resume soon.

That is not news — he has been promising as much for two months, since taking office. Just as he has been promising, every couple of weeks, to say his government will fulfil Israel's commitment to redeploy its occupation troops in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr Netanyahu's promises come thick and fast, and they cut both ways. On Thursday night he promised Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, that there would be progress in talks with the Palestinians. But he has also promised Jewish settlers in the occupied territories that they can expand their colonies, with his blessing and help.

He has promised the settlers in the Golan Heights that their land will not be given back to Syria.

He has promised the Syrians peace talks, without preconditions.

Little wonder that the Israeli government is exasperating its friends, as well

as its foes, by its continuing imitation of a rabbit paralysed by the onrushing headlights of decision-making.

In the vacuum created by masterly inactivity, some alarming theories have flourished and acquired substance. Last month the government refuted the far from new idea of "Lebanon first" peace talks. Israel, it said, would be prepared to withdraw its occupation forces from south Lebanon in return for guarantees that the Islamist guerrillas in Lebanon would be brought to heel.

Syria, the de facto suzerain in Lebanon, was predictably outraged by the suggestion of talks bypassing the main issue for Damascus: Golan. The proposal was dismissed as a ploy to blame Syria for lack of progress.

Then, eight days ago, Israel let it drop that it no longer felt bound by the tentative understandings achieved in negotiations in the United States earlier this year. The central idea which emerged from those talks was that any security arrangement on the Golan should be "mutual": that

is, that both sides would have to make concessions.

This time Damascus really was incensed, the more so when the new Israeli position was followed by a spate of academic and military "revelations".

Amnon Shabak, the army chief, said Syria had acquired Scud missiles capable of hitting most of Israel.

The respected academic Ze'ev Ma'oz, who was analysing the government's "total turnaround", said its main import was "a significant increase in the likelihood of a war breaking out against Syria".

Not surprisingly, the comment opened a hot debate in Israel. Hagai Merom, a Labour member of the Knesset (parliament), called for a parliamentary debate on the "renewed threat" of war with Syria.

In Damascus meanwhile, the official media was peering at the same question from its side of the looking-glass. The daily paper al-Ba'ath, detecting Zionist warlike intentions, warned that Israel "should count to a hundred, even to a thousand, before engaging in

such a stupid manoeuvre".

Mr Netanyahu was obliged to intervene, to say that in his view Syria posed no new threat, and that he hoped (again) that talks could be restarted. He also said that, apropos the security understandings negotiated by the previous government, Israel was committed only to signed agreements.

That last observation raised hollow laughter among the Palestinians, who have waited in vain for Mr Netanyahu to move beyond his repeated claims that the PLO is violating the peace accords by maintaining offices in Jerusalem.

Israel's argument, that Jerusalem is its exclusive property, is in itself a violation of the peace accords.

But the debate about who is the more egregious violator of the accords is beginning to look dangerously sterile. Yasser Arafat's self-styled Palestinian Authority is on the brink of bankruptcy, mired in human rights abuse and corruption, and under unrelenting pressure from Israel to back the Islamists (and vice-versa).

It desperately needs a prop from Israel, in the form of some progress in the interminably delayed peace progress. Instead, all it is getting is promises.

Nuns intensify prayers for Mother Teresa as doctors express their concern

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

MOTHER TERESA (right), practically beatified on earth for her devotion to the needy, was in a poor condition in a Calcutta hospital last night after suffering heart failure and with malarial fever.

Doctors at Woodlands nursing home said she had worsened during the day, describing her condition as "unstable". Though conscious, she was under sedation and running a mild temperature. She remained on a respirator in intensive care.

On Thursday doctors revived the Albanian-born nun by electric shock when



her heart stopped for nearly a minute. "We are now worried," said an official at the hospital, where five doctors are caring for her.

Yesterday the doctors banned visitors, including the nuns from her order who had been holding a vigil outside the hospital Mother Teresa, who turns 86 on Tuesday, was taken to Woodlands with malaria and her heart weakened a day later. Yesterday her doctors reversed a decision to remove the respirator after her condition worsened.

At Mother House, which houses the Missionaries of Charity, nuns in the blue-trimmed white saris of the 47-year-old order intensified their prayers.

"We are praying for Mother's good health and recovery. Before she became ill, we constantly prayed for her good health," said Sister Mary Lane.

News in brief

Refugees to be repatriated

Zaire and Rwanda have agreed to repatriate more than one million Rwandan refugees living in Zairean camps since mid-1994. — AP.

Envoy expelled

Jordan has asked an Iraqi diplomat to leave after blaming Iraq for last week's unrest, the worst in seven years, caused by a government decision to double bread prices. — Reuter.

US ship in N Korea

The United Nations World Food Programme said yesterday that a US merchant ship had docked in North Korea for the first time in 45 years to deliver food aid. — Reuter.

Travel broadens the mind. But not just yours. At Voluntary Service Overseas, we currently have 1,500 volunteers in 28 of the world's poorest countries. They range from engineers to doctors and work hand in hand with local communities, sharing their knowledge and skills on everything from agriculture to speech therapy. For more information about VSO, call 091 788 1228. To those who are less fortunate than yourself, it could be the passport to a better life.



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Changing attitudes
changing lives
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This terrible photograph



could prevent this terrible photograph.

سكيا من الارجل

صحة من الامل

steps in test ban

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photograph

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Report claims traces of plastic explosive found on wreckage Strongest evidence yet of bomb on TWA flight

Martin Walker in Chicago

INVESTIGATORS examining the wreckage of TWA flight 800 have found traces of a chemical used in explosives on a seal from the passenger cabin.

It is the strongest evidence yet that the 230 passengers on board the plane, which plunged into the Atlantic minutes after taking off from New York on July 17, were victims of a bomb. The traces suggest the presence of PETN, an advanced plastic explosive commonly used as a detonator in advanced ammunition, torpedoes and US-made anti-aircraft missiles.

A report in yesterday's New York Times cited three senior but anonymous officials confirming the PETN traces but adding that it was still impossible to say exactly what had brought the airliner down.

The report is being treated with caution, partly because of the possibility that the residue could have come from PETN contamination on the decks of navy and coastguard vessels which brought the wreckage ashore.

PETN, pentanitrate tetranitrate, is almost always found in conjunction with other explosives, and the FBI and other investigators are still trying to find other clues and traces on the wreckage. Nass scientists who studied the remains of the doomed Challenger space shuttle have been called in to help with an investigation, which is still far from complete.

The remains of the plane's fuel pumps are being studied by scientists from the Marshall space flight centre in Huntsville, Alabama. This suggests that the theory of an explosion in the central fuel tank has not been ruled out.

"We are trying to find out anything we can about these things malfunctioning," said Robert Francis, the vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. He declined yesterday to rule out any theory: bomb, missile or accident.

The PETN traces could give new life to the theory, sparked by eyewitness reports of a second fast-moving fiery object in the sky as the airliner exploded, that a missile may have brought the plane down. There is so far no other evidence to sustain such a hypothesis, but the possibility is enough to restrain official comment.

The new evidence of explosives from one of the seats between rows 17 and 27 has encouraged speculation that a passenger took the bomb on board, it exploded, and then ignited the fuel in the main tank.

Some media reports have said that this explains the failure of the searchers to find the remains of 21 bodies; that those seated in the rows by the tank were in effect disintegrated by a huge explosion.

But Mr Francis dismissed that theory, saying that only five of the 21 missing had been sitting in that area. Reports that the explosion took place on the right-hand side of the cabin were described as "not a good conclusion to draw".

Although the investigation continues apace, the search for more wreckage is winding down. The USS Grasp, a specialist diving and salvage vessel, is expected to leave the area next week. Another salvage ship, the USS Grapple, will remain to recover what remains of the now well-mapped debris on the ocean floor.

Peru clears way for Fujimori

Jane Díaz-Limaco in Lima reports on a popular president who is poised for a third term in the next elections in 2000

A LAW passed by the Peruvian congress yesterday has given Alberto Fujimori the opportunity to become one of Latin America's longest-serving democratically elected presidents.

The law, called an "authentic interpretation" of the constitution, states that a bar on any president serving more than two consecutive terms cannot be applied retrospectively.

Mr Fujimori was elected president in 1990 and 1995. But after he dissolved the opposition-dominated parliament in 1992 - the so-called auto-coup - a new constitution was written the following year by a congress that supported Mr Fujimori.

He is now free to stand for a third five-year term in the next elections in 2000. Opposition members say the new law, which was passed by 70 votes to three, violates the constitution.

Mr Fujimori has a popularity rating of more than 60 per cent, and loyal MPs

have been prepared to change the law twice in four years to enable him to stay in power.

The law was first changed after he dissolved parliament in 1992. A new elected body rewrote the constitution allowing a president to be re-elected once, a change narrowly approved by referendum.

Alfredo Torres, of the leading Apoyo market research company, said Mr Fujimori owed much to the failure of his predecessor, Alan García, who left office amid economic chaos and allegations of corruption.

"García's failure vaccinated voters against traditional politicians, since in his fall García pulled all the traditional politicians down with him," Mr Torres said.

Mr Fujimori's 1990 victory sealed voters' preference for independent candidates.

Mr Fujimori has also been helped by the absence of alternative leaders. The novelist Mario Vargas

Llosa left Peru after his electoral defeat by Mr Fujimori in 1990. He adopted Spanish nationality, leaving his fledgling Freedom movement in disarray.

Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the former secretary-general of the United Nations, was seen as too old and out of touch when he stood in 1995. Mr Fujimori was re-elected with 64 per cent of the vote.

He has been at best heavy-handed, but his decisions, notably the auto-coup and the introduction of harsh military trials for those suspected of subversion, have struck a chord with Peruvians weary of hyper-inflation and guerrilla attacks.

"Peru has a long autocratic tradition that means someone like Fujimori, who takes hard decisions, who leads, is attractive," said Mr Torres.

Despite the intellectual elite's protests that Mr Fujimori has allied himself with the army and fostered a huge intelligence network, voters have yet to show they doubt his image as a hard-working, honest pragmatist.

"He loves power and power has given him security," Manuel Torrado, an analyst, said.

News in brief

Five killed in Algerian blast

A home-made bomb exploded in a market in the district of Tipasa west of Algiers yesterday, killing three women and two children, Algerian security forces said. Five people were injured.

The security forces said they defused four other bombs in a raid immediately after the explosion. — Reuters.

Pinochet victims

A Chilean government commission has reported that 3,197 people were killed or disappeared during General Augusto Pinochet's 16 years in power. It is considered the final official tally of victims of the dictatorship. — AP.

Amazon crafts

Russian-built hovercrafts will soon be plying the waters of the Amazon to reduce the difficulties of transport on the Brazilian waterway, the government said. — Reuters.

Pilot goes home

Adolfo Pérez Pantoja, the pilot who ditched a small Cuban plane in the Gulf of Mexico after three passengers forced him to fly towards the United States, has returned home, as he had requested, Cuban state media reported yesterday. — Reuters.



The wife of Jacques Florival grieves after he was shot dead at their home in Port-au-Prince. PHOTOGRAPH: THONY BELZARE

Haiti television station attacked in new round of violence

HAITI'S national television station has been hit by gunshots, the latest incident in a week of violence.

A United Nations spokesman, Eric Falt, said shots from small calibre weapons were fired on Thursday at the

offices of National Television of Haiti just outside the capital, Port-au-Prince. No one was hurt.

Two political killings and an attack on a police station in which one civilian died have raised concern this

week that the tenuous order established by US troops and the UN peacekeeping mission could be falling apart.

Pastor Antoine Leroy, a top official of the Mobilisation for National Democracy (MDN) party, and an MDN member,

Jacques Florival, were shot dead outside Mr Florival's house on Tuesday afternoon.

Evans Paul, an opposition leader and ex-mayor of Port-au-Prince, accused the Haitian government of plotting the assassinations. — Reuters.

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy - the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

Send or phone for our FREE guide to making a Will, today.

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Please send me my FREE copy of your guide to Wills and Will-making. (Allow 28 days for delivery)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Guildford
(01483) 426445

Send to: Sally Burrows, Legacies Officer, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature), Freepost, Panda House, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BR. No stamp is needed. Registered Charity Number 201707

"People laughed when I offered to explain how to conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without money or doctors."

It may sound too good to be true - but it is true! There is a doctor-approved secret which will show you how you can, for the rest of your life, easily conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without spending money or seeing a doctor.

Most illnesses can be dealt with without pills or medicines and without orthodox or alternative therapies

And you can get better without spending time and money or doctors, specialists, acupuncturists, hypotherapists or pills from the chemist - and without exposing yourself to hazardous and uncomfortable side effects.

We have just published a new edition of "Bodypower" - the sensational book by Dr Vernon Coleman which hit the Sunday Times bestseller list and the Bookseller chart too. This fascinating book, reprinted 14 times in the UK and sold in just about every country in the world, shows exactly how 9 out of 10 illnesses can be conquered without seeing a doctor.

Still not convinced? .. read on for more evidence

If you think our claims for Bodypower are difficult to believe read what the some of the many reviewers had to say:

"One of the most sensible treatises on personal survival that has ever been published. It sets out, in the simplest language, an enormous amount of knowledge in the easiest possible way" - (Yorkshire Evening Post)

"Don't miss it! Dr Coleman's theories could change your life ... the revolutionary way to look better and feel younger" - (Sunday Mirror)

"... a self help manual for maintaining or regaining health using your own resources. Vernon Coleman presents his evidence with clarity and evangelical fervour." - (The Good Book Guide)

"There are plenty of good books on healthcare ... I'd recommend Bodypower" - (Woman's Own)

"Arm yourself with a copy of Bodypower - it could make stress a thing of the past" - (Woman's World)

"Despite my own medical training and knowledge of nature's devices, Dr Coleman made me think again" - (BBC World Service)

"marvellously succinct ... refreshingly sensible" - (The Spectator)

Vernon Coleman is the UK's leading medical author and campaigning journalist. He has a string of bestsellers to his name and his books are sold in their millions around the world. He scours the world's medical journals and libraries to bring you invaluable information that could dramatically improve the quality of your life. Here are extracts from just a few of the many thousands of readers' letters sent to this office:

"It is lovely to have someone who cares about people as you do. You tell us such a lot of things that we are afraid to ask our own doctors" - (K.C.)

"I greatly admire you no nonsense approach to things and your acting as champion of the people" - (L.A.)

"I admire your forthright and refreshingly honest way of expressing your views and opinions ... bless you for being a light in the eternal darkness" - (B.O.)

"If only more people in the medical profession were like you it would be a much nicer world" - (G.W.)

"The man is a national treasure" (What Doctors Don't Tell You)	"A godsend" (Daily Telegraph)	"Britain's leading healthcare campaigner" (The Sun)
"Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice" (The Observer)	"His advice is optimistic and enthusiastic" (British Medical Journal)	

We are convinced that Bodypower will change your life and we know that you will not want to part with your copy of this invaluable book. But our guarantee of satisfaction (see below) means that you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If you want to know the secret of how to conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without seeing a doctor or spending any money on medical treatments then send your cheque/PO for £9.95 (made payable to Publishing House) to: Sales Office G271, Publishing House, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HF, UK. To pay by credit card please telephone 01271 328892 Monday - Friday 8.30 - 5.30. We look forward to hearing from you.

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"Vernon Coleman writes brilliant books" (The Good Book Guide)
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Goodwood with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with jockeys.

2.15 SPORT ON 8 MARCH STAKES STYO 5m 110yds

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with jockeys.

BBC-1

2.45 CAPREY'S HIGH RATED STAKES HANDICAP 7f 120yds

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with jockeys.

BBC-1

3.15 LADDERING RACING STAKES HANDICAP 5f 110yds

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with jockeys.

BBC-1

3.50 TRIPLE-CROWN COLLEGIATE HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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BBC-1

4.20 CRONCHIE'S CHAMPIONSHIP HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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BBC-1

4.50 RICHMOND-HARVEST TROPHY HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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BBC-1

5.25 NEW PLYMOUTH HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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5.55 NEW PLYMOUTH HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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Cartmel (N.H.)

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2.25 BUCKINGHAM & BUNTON'S HURDLE 5m 110yds

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2.55 LINDALE HURDLE 5m 110yds

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4.40 GREAT THORNTON HURDLE 5m 110yds

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5.10 RACING CHANNEL SATURDAY SERVICE HURDLE 5m 110yds

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Racing

Chance for Alhaarth followers to celebrate

Alhaarth, last season's top two-year-old, probably this year's most disappointing three-year-old, gets the chance to repay his dwindling base of supporters at Goodwood today when the Tripleprint Celebration Mile looks for the taking.

Trainer's absence assists Carranita

CARRANITA landed a substantial gamble in yesterday's Portland Place Properties Hopeful Stakes at Newmarket, the six-year-old picking up her third listed prize of 1996 and her fourth in all.

Beverley

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Trained to the minute for the Guinness, Mark Of Esteem has since flopped in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot. The Godolphin team may well have Mark Of Esteem back to his best, but with his penalty he looks worth opposing.

Windsor tonight

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Newmarket with TV form

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2.00 BENTLEY FINANCIAL COLLEGIATE HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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6.40 NEW PLYMOUTH HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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7.10 NEW PLYMOUTH HANDICAP 5m 110yds

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7.40 NEW PLYMOUTH HANDICAP 5m 110yds

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with jockeys.

8.00 NEW PLYMOUTH HANDICAP 5m 110yds

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with jockeys.

Large advertisement for 'Bee for I' and 'Born Away' products, featuring images of bees and text.

Athletics

Beers and cheers for Masterkova

Duncan Mackay in Brussels

THE DRINKS were on Svetlana Masterkova when she broke the world 1,000 metres record here last night. But instead of vodka all round, it was a glass of celebratory beer that was being raised to the Russian.

The sell-out crowd of 40,000 in the Stade Roi Baudouin — the reconstructed Heysel — were able to toast Masterkova's success because a local sponsor had promised every one a sample of their product if a world record was broken.

Masterkova, the Olympic 800m and 1500m champion, stopped the clock at 2min 28.86sec, taking 0.28sec off Maria Mutola's mark set in the corresponding meeting last year. It was her second world record in 10 days: in Zurich last week she had set a mile mark of 4:12.53.

Mutola was desperately chasing Masterkova down the home straight but the acceleration that she has added to her armoury since returning from having a baby 17 months ago carried the Russian away from the challenge. When the sponsor came on to the loud-speaker system to announce, "The drinks are on us," the noise was so great the new roof was nearly blown off.

Twenty-four Atlanta Olymp-

pic gold medalists and a parade of former champions had assembled for the 20th Van Damme Memorial meeting. But before the band had even had a chance to strike up Happy Birthday, the American Allen Johnson got the party off to a great start when he splashed through the puddles of an early-evening downpour to win the 110m hurdles in 12.59, just one hundredth of a second off Colin Jackson's world record.

It was the second time in three months that Johnson had missed the record by the smallest possible margin — he had run the same time at the US Olympic trials in June. Jackson was five yards down in second place in 13.24.

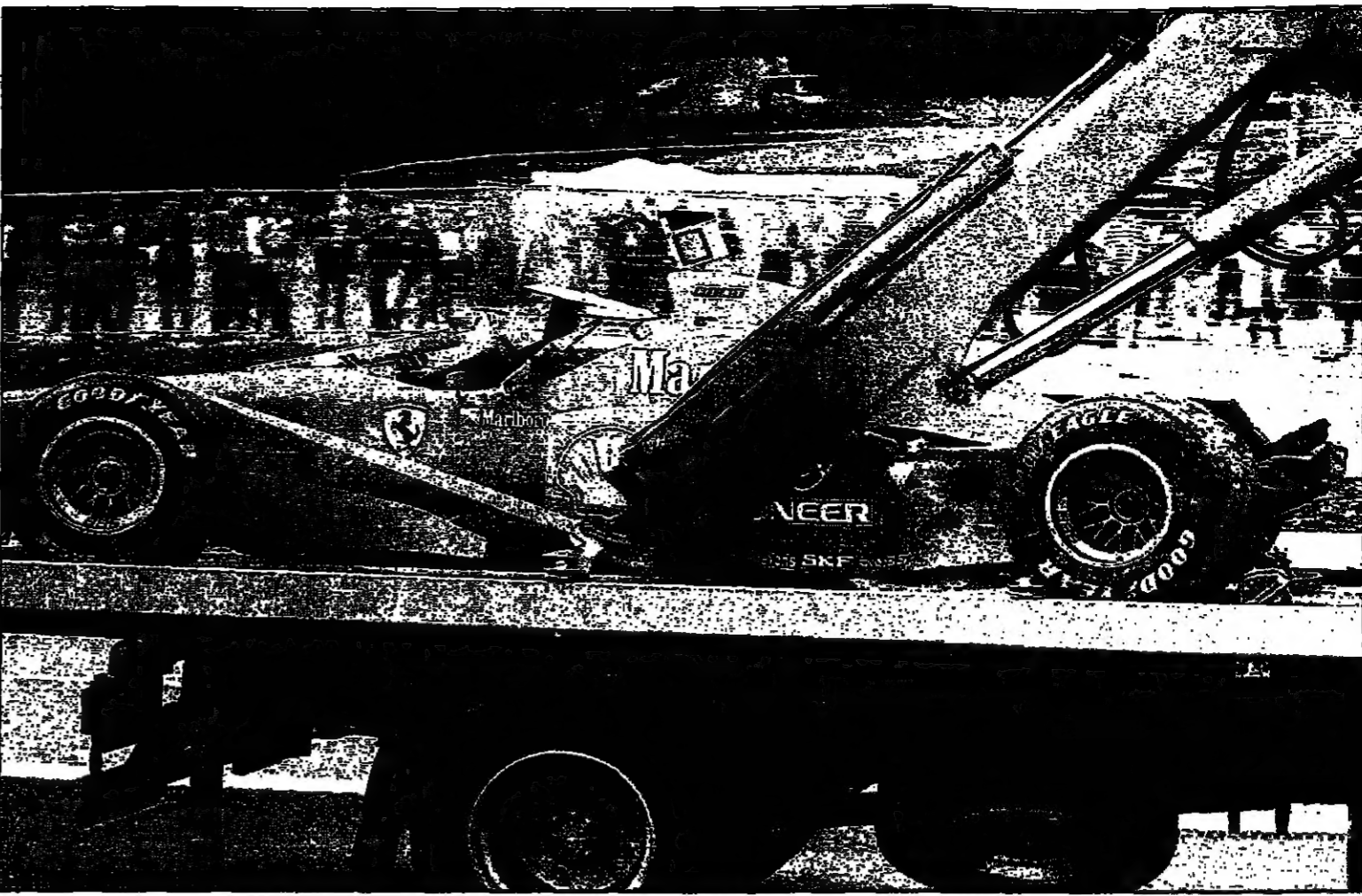
Part of the secret in the fast times lay in the track, a newly laid Mondo surface of the type which had produced so many astonishing performances in Atlanta a few weeks ago.

Jackson's business partner Linford Christie is also feeling the strains of a long season. He lost a major grand prix 100m for the seventh consecutive time as Dennis Mitchell turned the tables on the Olympic champion Donovan Bailey, the American winning impressively in 10.03sec. Christie looked jaded as he trailed in fifth in 10.14, even losing out to Carl Lewis, who was third.

Mystery surrounded the knee injury that Christie claimed to have suffered in Gateshead on Monday after finishing second in the 200 metres which led him to withdraw from a race against Bailey. The former Olympic champion was described in a Brussels newspaper headline as "Christie the Comedian" on Thursday after it was revealed by the meeting director Wilfried Meert that his agent had rung on Tuesday to say "there was no injury".

Allen Johnson may have performed the best party trick but he was not the chief guest. That honour fell to another Johnson — Michael. The organisers had committed \$100,000 of their \$2.3 million budget to make sure he turned up to run his first race since that remarkable run in Atlanta when he set a world 200m record of 19.32sec.

Johnson, now elevated to the status of American hero, ran his other gold-medal winning distance of 400 metres. Racing in purple spikes instead of the gold he wore on his feet during the Olympics, he had so much in hand as he won in 49.29 that he was able to turn to the crowd five yards before the finish line and stretch his arms out wide in celebration of his 56th consecutive victory over one lap.



Unofficial practice... Michael Schumacher's battered Ferrari is given a lift back to the garage by a passing lorry

Ferrari deny crisis as dramatic crash shakes up Schumacher

MICHAEL Schumacher received an abrupt reminder here yesterday of how stark the changing fortunes of motor racing can be when he spent the second hour of the opening free practice session for the Belgian Grand Prix in the Ferrari team's motor-home sleeping off the effects of a spectacular accident.

The world champion lost control of his Ferrari F310 approaching the 130mph downhill Fagnes left-handers, the car snapped into a spin and careered backwards across the gravel trap to slam into a tyre wall. The force of the impact lifted the front wheels al-

most a metre off the ground, and the German driver was fortunate to walk away with nothing more serious than a badly bruised right knee.

With the rear end of the car severely damaged, it was a lucky escape and lesser drivers might have been tempted to lay the blame on mechanical malfunction. But Schumacher shrugged aside the episode and admitted he had made a slight error of judgment, applying a touch too much throttle as he went to turn into the corner and losing grip.

For the Ferrari team the accident represented yet another painful setback. Schumacher ended the day eighth fastest and his team-mate Eddie Irvine 13th after handling problems. Nevertheless Jean Todt, Ferrari's sporting direc-

tor, dismissed any suggestions of a crisis. "The technical situation at Ferrari appears critical," he said, "but in fact things are much better than they seem. Michael was quickest before his accident and Eddie could have done better but for a small error on his final lap."

It was particularly disappointing for the famous Italian team who were hoping that both drivers would benefit from the use of a brand new seven-speed gearbox, one of which was destroyed in Schumacher's accident.

The first session ended with Gerhard Berger quickest in his Benetton-Renault, 0.6366sec ahead of David Coulthard's McLaren-Mercedes and the Williams of Jacques Villeneuve, making his Spa debut.

Damon Hill was lying in

seventh place, having been balked by Pedro Lamy's slow Minardi on what he believed would be his fastest lap. As usual in a Friday free practice session, the championship leader played his cards close to his chest with a view to setting up his car to produce the best possible performance in this afternoon's hour-long battle for pole position.

Hill came to Belgium fresh from a test session at Barcelona, where he had concentrated most of his efforts on improving his starting technique which has cost him crucial points on at least two occasions this season.

However, Hill dismissed the prospect of switching to a hand-operated clutch control, as used by Villeneuve. "I have always used my feet to drive

the car, and hands on the wheel," he said. "But the important start is not nearly so important here as it is, say, at Monaco or Hungaroring."

Hill relishes the discipline of the fast Belgian circuit, where he has already won twice, in 1993 and 1994. It offers more opportunities for overtaking than most tracks, providing the drivers with an exhilarating challenge and the fans with a spectacle to watch.

With 17 points in hand over Villeneuve with four races left, the Englishman cannot clinch the world championship this weekend but he will want his first title firmly buttoned up within the next month rather than face a nerve-racking contest down to the wire at Japan's Suzuka circuit on October 13.

Golf

Easy pickings for Woosnam

Michael Britten in Stuttgart

IAN WOOSNAM agrees with Seve Ballesteros, the Ryder Cup captain: the Nippenburg course here is much too easy and it is flattering Europe's tournament professionals competing for the Volvo German Open title this weekend.

But Woosnam will have no qualms about eventually securing a fourth win of the season and topping Colin Montgomerie from the head of the money list after a second 64. The 5ft 6in Welshman, who is first in regaining his Midas touch, produced an inward 29 for a 14-under-par total of 128, the best by three shots on the circuit this year.

His second round included eight birdies and was finished off with an eagle at the 18th to give him a one-stroke lead over the 6ft 1in Robert Karlsson, who became the third man to return a 62, following Paul Broadhurst and Roger Chapman, by coming home in 28. The former Amateur champion Iain Pyman and the Spaniard Fernando Roca,

who both had 64s, share third place at 13 under.

Ballesteros, who followed his opening 68 with a 70, is not required for the final 36 holes, being a victim of a cut that fell at a record-equaling five-under 137, the same as in the BMW Open in Munich four years ago.

"You should be able to score 62 if you play fantastic golf," said Ballesteros, "but what is happening here is giving a very false impression. European players are not as good as the scores suggest and the reality is that Tour officials are to blame for setting up the course in this way. You will see the difference when we get to places like Valderrama."

That is where the next Ryder Cup match, for which qualifying starts next week, will be played. Ballesteros says he will be making the strongest representations to Tour officials to provide more difficult courses than the one they own here in Stuttgart in partnership with Mark McCormack's International Management Group, the event's promoters.

Home-loving Horton still getting his just desserts

David Davies at The Belfry

IN the embryonic days of the European Tour, a man called Gus Payne used to do his best to wreck the waitlines of all concerned. He was the founder of the caterers Payne and Gunter, and a particular pride and joy was his treacle pudding.

Tommy Horton, still but a lad, loved the stuff but learned quickly that it had to be avoided. He had a sponsor, one Ernest Butter, who established a life-time produce sporting champions who trained properly, practised properly and — strange idea for those days — ate properly.

As a result Horton not only became a champion; he established a habit of winning — 12 tournaments worldwide on the regular tours — which continues to this day. Yesterday he had the lowest round of the tournament in the PGA Seniors Championship here, a four-under 68. It gave him a total of 139 and a three-stroke lead over Australia's Terry Gale.

Horton is one of only three men under par and he put his success down to playing the key hole at The Belfry well: "There are a lot of difficult holes out there but you really must hit good shots at the 3rd, 8th, 9th, 15th and 18th."

Horton played a potentially calamitous cluster in three under par, birdieing the 3rd with a five-iron to eight feet. At the 15th he almost holed a greenside bunker shot and at the 18th he hit a 281-yard drive, a 151-yard six-iron and holed from 12 feet.

The good news for the Seniors Tour organisers, which is also the bad news for his fellow competitors, is that Horton is not planning to cash in on the hugely rich US Senior Tour. "Everyone tells me 'I'm daft,'" he says, "but I know how I feel over there. It's okay during the tournament but the rest of it..."

He got his card once but found commuting from Jersey a tad slow. "On one occasion," he said, "they called me from Los Angeles and told me I was second reserve for the tournament and had a good chance of getting in. So I flew 6,000 miles, spent £2,000 — and didn't get in. No, I don't think I'll be going back."

Born To Give Away Fridges

Lynn Barber meets Dale Winton, king of daytime TV, tomorrow in **The Observer**

Safety first after hitting a woodcutter's cottage and taking a bath in fuel

- Final placings**
- 1 John Surtees (Ferrari) - retired from racing 1972.
 - 2 Joop van Oort (Cooper) - killed practicing for 1970 Italian Grand Prix at Monza when brake shaft failed on Lotus 72.
 - 3 Lorenzo Bandini (Ferrari) - died from burns sustained in 1967 Monaco Grand Prix.
 - 4 Jack Brabham (Brabham) - retired from racing 1970.
 - 5 Richie Ginther (Cooper) - retired from racing 1967.
 - 6 Guy Ligier (Cooper) - retired from racing 1967.
 - 7 Dan Gurney (Eagle) - retired from racing 1970.
- Did not finish**
- Bob Bondurant (BRM) - retired from racing 1968.
 - Graham Hill (BRM) - killed in air crash, November 1976.
 - Jim Clark (Lotus) - killed in Lotus F2 car at Hockenheim, April, 1968. Possible cause: tyre deflation.
 - Denny Hulme (Brabham) - died from chest attack while racing BRM saloon car, Australia, November 1992.
 - Jo Siffert (Cooper) - killed when BRM P180 crashed in non-championship F1 race at Brands Hatch, October 1971. Suspension failure cited as the cause.
 - Mike Spence (Lotus) - killed testing Lotus turbo car at Indianapolis in April 1968.
 - Jackie Stewart (BRM) - retired from racing 1973.



Hockenheim 1968, below. German policeman stands guard near the wreckage of Jim Clark's Lotus.

Alan Henry recalls a watershed for Jackie Stewart and Formula One 30 years ago

By today's safety-conscious standards in Formula One, the circuit at Spa-Francorchamps is regarded as the jewel in the world championship crown: a track with enormous character guaranteed to yield an exciting challenge to the drivers in tomorrow's Belgian Grand Prix.

Yet this weekend Spa celebrates a most significant anniversary. The events of 30 years ago on the now unrunned section through the pine forests of the Haute-Fagnes changed attitudes towards motor racing safety and started to transform the sport from a gun-ho, devil-may-care pastime in which the risk of death and injury were taken for granted as definite risks.

On the opening lap of the 1966 Belgian Grand Prix the field was largely wrecked by a multiple accident when the cars hit an unexpected rainstorm only a couple of miles into the race. Cars skated off the track in all directions but by far the most serious accident involved the BRM driven by Jackie Stewart, then one of the most promising of the young rising stars.

"I must have been doing around 165mph when the car aquaplaned and I lost control," said Stewart. "We just ran into a wall of water in the way it can rain only in southern Belgium."

"First I hit a telegraph pole and then a woodcutter's cottage and I finished up in the outside basement of a farm building. The car ended up shaped like a banana and I was still trapped inside it."

"The fuel tank had totally ruptured inwardly and the monocoque (chassis) literally filled up with fuel. It was pushing around in the cockpit."

"The instrument panel was smashed, ripped off and found 200 metres from the car but the electric fuel pump was still working away. The steering wheel wouldn't come off and I couldn't get out."

Stewart was eventually freed by two fellow BRM drivers — Graham Hill, the father of the current world championship leader, and Bob Bondurant. He had sustained four broken ribs and shoulder bone and pelvic injuries in the worst accident of his professional career.

It also prompted the Scot to recalibrate his approach to his chosen sport. Racing drivers, he reasoned, should be paid to demonstrate their

skill, not simply their bravery in what now seem prehistoric conditions.

On his return to racing Stewart was the first Formula One driver to start using a seat harness and he ensured that a spanner was always taped to the steering wheel of his BRM to facilitate his escape in the event of a repeat. Stewart also began a crusade for improved circuit safety which brought him the respect and the grateful appreciation of successive generations of grand-prix drivers.

Yet by the time he retired in 1973 the old Spa-Francorchamps circuit had been sacrificed. It no longer made sense to race at 175mph down country lanes with such limited protection. The world was moving on.

In 1983, however, the Spa circuit was to start using a seat harness and he ensured that a spanner was always taped to the steering wheel of his BRM to facilitate his escape in the event of a repeat. Stewart also began a crusade for improved circuit safety which brought him the respect and the grateful appreciation of successive generations of grand-prix drivers.

Yet for almost half the field who accelerated away from the starting grid here in 1966, the safety crusade would come too late, as the accompanying chart shows.

Rugby League

Wigan primed for a final spell on top as Saints wait to play the title role

Paul Fitzpatrick

WIGAN will almost certainly be top of Super League tonight but they had better make the most of it. They are unlikely to be there when the final match of this first summer season is played on Monday.

The title looks destined for St Helens, though their match with Warrington at Knowsley Road is no foregone conclusion, unlike Workington's trip to Central Park tonight.

Earlier this year Saints, in a spell of three days, beat Warrington 84-0 in the Regal Trophy semi-final and 51-14

in the championship, humiliations which persuaded Brian Johnson, their Australian coach, that it was time to move on.

Warrington are unlikely to suffer on that scale this time and, indeed, lost by only a point to St Helens in a riveting game at Wilderspool earlier in the season.

There is an additional incentive for Warrington: they can still finish in the top four and that would give them a place in the lucrative Premiership play-offs. But they will be stretched to hold a Saints side in expansive mood against Sheffield Eagles last Sunday.

St Helens, however, have enjoyed moments of fortune during the campaign. They won games they might easily have lost, notably against London Broncos at home, and they were indebted to the Broncos for taking what has proved a crucial point off Wigan at Central Park.

But for all that, they will make worthy champions. Like Bradford, Saints have embraced summer rugby wholeheartedly and, especially on the superb turf of Knowsley Road, have produced some scintillating performances. Only a Wigan supporter or the coldest heart would deny a side so devoted

to entertaining the public the right to their first championship for 21 years.

Wigan, meanwhile, must win tonight and then hope Warrington do them a massive favour on Monday. But it looks as if 1996 will be the first year since 1968 that they have not won the Challenge Cup and the first year since 1980 that they have not won the championship.

Shawn Edwards has got his place back in the Wigan side after starting the three previous games on the bench. After the influence he exerted on the match against London last week when he came on in the second half it would have

been almost impossible for Graeme West, the Wigan coach, to omit him.

Sensing that Edwards' career at Central Park might be drawing to an end, clubs are jockeying for position in an attempt to sign the 29-year-old scrum-half.

London Broncos and Keighley are among his admirers and so are Salford, where his former colleague Andy Gregory is the coach. Salford, who will be in Super League next year, are already looking to the future and have signed the 30-year-old Penrith and Australian Test forward John Cartwright. They would love to sign Edwards as well.

Tennis

US Open at Flushing Meadow

Agassi goes back to where it hurt

Stephen Bierley on two men with special reasons to make it in New York this fortnight

PETE SAMPRAS believes he knows why Andre Agassi has struggled so much this year. "I don't think he ever quite recovered from losing to me in the US Open final last fall."

History may repeat itself at Flushing Meadow a fortnight tomorrow. Initially Sampras and Agassi were drawn in the same half of the draw but the redraw late on Thursday saw them separated.

This draw came about after a vehement protest from the players. The US Tennis Association had started off by drawing all the 112 non-seeded players and then filling in the seeds.

Sampras's abject performances in Paris and London appeared to point to something much more radically wrong if nothing else he was patently lacking in fitness, but his lack of desire was almost as obvious.

being dismissed in the French Open and again warned of verbal abuse in the first round of the Olympics.

Had it not happened, the case for Agassi winning his second US Open would have been strong, but that default must have some toll on him.

Last year Agassi won seven titles including the Australian and reached the US final on a 26-match winning streak. The force appeared to be with him but Sampras won in four sets.

Sampras's travails this season have obviously stemmed directly from the death of his friend and coach Tim Gullikson.

What joy there would be if Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the US champion in 1991 and 1992, were to defeat Krajicek in the first round and go on to reach the final in his last year on the professional circuit at the age of 30.

has made him the No. 2 at Flushing Meadow. "I like to play in New York," Chang said encouragingly. "The US Open surface suits me - even though I've not been able to crack through."

Yet Chang's only Grand Slam title came seven years ago at Roland Garros when he was 17. His wonderful retrieving puts huge pressure on opponents to come up with winning shots.

Such capricious form has undoubtedly heightened the excitement, though Wimbledon's Krajicek-Washington final surely stretched credulity to the breaking point of a hurried Ivanisevic racket.

Tim Henman opens up against the Swede Mats Wilander, the champion of 1988, and may then meet Todd Martin, his quarter-final conqueror at Wimbledon. It is a tough prospect for the British No. 1 but such are precisely the opponents he needs to beat regularly if he is to advance to the 20th.

White completed a good day with the wicket of Galian and a slip catch to dismiss Lloyd in Stemp's second over after a stand of 73 inside nine overs with Fairbrother, who went on to reach a 62-half-century.



Last year's look... Agassi huffs and puffs during his failed defence of the US title in 1995

Seles eager to fire from the shoulder

THE CURRENT tropy-turvy nature of the men's game, and the concomitant excitement, has not been mirrored in women's tennis.

Most attention, at least initially, will fall on Monica Seles, beaten in last year's final by Graf. Seles was playing her first major competition since the stabbing incident in April 1993 and, when she won the Australian Open in January last year, her rehabilitation appeared complete.

However, a shoulder injury halted her career once again and since then the old Seles has only fleetingly been observed. Once the US Open and the Fed Cup final against Spain in late September are over, she is expected to have an operation.

Meanwhile, despite her failures in the French Open, Wimbledon and the Olympic Games, including two defeats by Jana Novotna, Seles has retained her No. 1 ranking with Graf and is seeded No. 2 at Flushing Meadow.

The former Yugoslav,

who is now an American citizen, may have lost her killer queen stature but she is certainly enjoying life to the full.

Seles stayed in the Olympic village at Atlanta, managed to get Muhammad Ali's autograph and has gleefully taken up the team challenge of Fed Cup play, where she is quick to point out: "You leave your ego and individuality at the door."

The greatest challenge to everybody this time may come from the 6ft 2in Lindy Davenport who, with the help and succour of Billie Jean King, the US women's coach, has suddenly, perhaps permanently, been transformed. She won the Olympic final against Sanchez Vicario and went on to defeat Graf last week.

The pressure on the 20-year-old Californian, who has never progressed beyond the fourth round of the US Open, however, will be all the greater given her recent sharp improvement, but the door to the final appears wide open in the lower half of the draw.

Graf, as ever, is nursing an injury: the same left knee which she had taped during her victorious Wimbledon. She has played little since then but remains the likely winner.

Rubin forced to miss out

GRANDA RUBIN, the world No. 10, has pulled out of next week's US Open as she is still suffering with the right wrist injury which has troubled her for the last few months.

The 30-year-old American, who would have been seventh seed at Flushing Meadow, was also forced to miss the French Open and Wimbledon because of the tendinitis.

Her withdrawal as a good news for her compatriot Lindsey Davenport, who had been scheduled to meet a dangerous floater Karina Habšudova, of Slovakia, in the first round.

The 30-year-old American, who would have been seventh seed at Flushing Meadow, was also forced to miss the French Open and Wimbledon because of the tendinitis.

Cricket

County Championship: Yorkshire v Lancashire

Sweet revenge as White collars Lancashire

LANCASHIRE were responsible for the lowest moment of Craig White's career in June as he conceded the runs that cost Yorkshire a place in the Benson and Hedges Cup final.

White and Blakey plundered 230 in less than 42 overs, with Blakey reaching his first century for four years from 150 balls. Gough's batting skill was on only brief display.

Blows on Galian and Speak. Silverwood broke the opening stand with the first ball after the interruption.

Essex v Gloucestershire

Gooch on century guard to stay king of the Castle

Park yesterday was ample time for his commanding, unbeaten 108, his sixth first-class century. Gooch, the inclination is to imagine that his batting powers must be on the wane.

By the close Essex were 184 without loss and trail Gloucestershire by only 88, a position promising enough to survive a few more shuffling overs the last two days.

Once or twice Gooch's deflections against Walsh veered close to short but they were trimmed. Walsh was hooked, his clumping drives spared no one and Davis's left-arm spin was greeted with a simple flick over mid-wicket which left the floor of the Lay & Wheeler marquee awash with the nervous spilling of expensive pint glasses.

Glamorgan v Kent

Ottis regrets as Waqar is the name on Welsh lips

JAVED MIANDAD and Viv Richards to come? The county were hardly self-effacing when it came to putting a few big names on the payroll.

Ashley Giles and Tim Munton shared a record last-wicket Worcestershire partnership of 141 against Gloucestershire at New Road yesterday, overtaking the 128 set by Fred Santall and Wilf Sanders against Yorkshire in 1930.

Giles, who made a career-best 83 and Munton (54), his maiden championship half-century, joined forces at 189 for nine on Thursday. They added 65 to the overnight total before Giles was bowled.

Scoreboard

Table with multiple columns showing cricket scores for various matches including Durham vs Somerset, Lancashire vs Yorkshire, Essex vs Gloucestershire, Glamorgan vs Kent, Warwickshire vs Northamptonshire, and Wiltshire vs Hampshire.

Paralympics

Disco beat fails to lift Willey

FIVE minutes before the 67.5kg division powerlifting contest was due to begin in the Marriott Marquis Hotel's glittery ballroom, the music started pounding.

Looks like he's real mean" was the view of one loud female voice out of the audience. Mean or not, Willey was fourth in his class at Barcelona and had a medal chance here, but in the end he was beaten by the boom in Asian and Middle Eastern powerlifting.

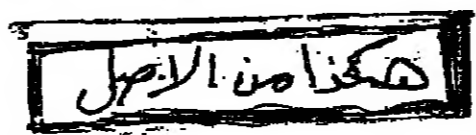
Ice Hockey

Bison fans back Heasman

BASINGSTOKE Bison fans have signed a petition to the team owners, Civic Leisure Limited, supporting the sacked former Great Britain player Stuart Heasman after his election from the rink last weekend by security staff.

Civic Leisure have pointed blank refused to give any reasons in writing for dismissing. Obviously legal proceedings are our only route. The rink ejection was done in full view of the fans. As a result pandemonium broke out. Fans were shouting at the bouncers and some even proposed a lock-in to prevent Stuart being ejected.

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SportsGuardian

CROFT AND CRAWLEY SUGGEST A SILVER LINING BUT ENGLAND LOSE IMPETUS AGAIN

England v Pakistan: third Test, second day

Saeed puts Pakistan in control

Mike Selvey at The Oval

ALTHOUGH the forecast for the next few days is for weather as variable as the length and line of an England seam, the initiative in this match rests firmly with Pakistan.

Heavy overnight rain and a mysterious lack of covering on the Oval square delayed a start until 2.15pm; shortly after three o'clock Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis had finished off the England innings, 306 for three at one stage, for a disappointing 236.

By then John Crawley, 84 overnight, had reached 106 — his maiden Test century and an innings that should have sealed his Test future in the medium term.

If his innings was good, however, it was knocked into a cocked hat in the afternoon when, as the late summer shadows lengthened, Saeed Anwar, a left-bander with the wrists of a master fencer, hit a full toss from Ian Salisbury away to square leg to complete his third Test century.

It was a scintillating display of strokeplay and at the close he walked off to the acclaim of his side, having made 116 of Pakistan's 239 for one. With him was Ijaz Ahmed, who had arrived at the crease after Saeed and Aamir Sohail (46) had put on 108 in 23 overs for the first wicket. He finished having pulled and cut his way to an unbeaten 58 made out of a second-wicket partnership of 123.

England battled hard and can take some heart from the fact that they bowled forcefully — Lewis, for example, bent his back and produced deliveries of real pace — if at times rather ineptly. On a pitch such as this, however, and against willing and capable strokeplayers, there is no margin for error.

Being positive, the words cloud and silver lining springs to mind over the single wicket that fell. It went to Robert Croft who, in his first bowl for England, enticed So-

hail into driving a low catch to Cork at short extra cover.

This off-spinner — the first from Glamorgan to play for England since Jim McConnon 42 years ago, although Don Shepherd might, with justification, feel aggrieved that his 2,318 wickets never got him a sniff — appears to have the fast bowler's mentality of that other Croft, of West Indies fame.

Croft has a strong action with a full pivot, not unlike the Australian Tim May, who could spin the ball so hard it shredded his index finger. But it was Croft's temperament that impressed most. From his first ball he was at the batsman like a dog after a rat, barking out his appeals (optimistic, mostly, and probably in Welsh as Merv Kitchen did not appear to understand).

He sent down 16 overs in his first spell for only 48 runs and then added another maiden just before stumps. Pakistan hit 34 boundaries in their innings but Croft conceded only four. In these circumstances, and against such opposition, his was a terrific effort.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
1st Innings (overs 278-4)	100
I D K Salisbury c Izzatullah-U-Hasan	10
W Wasim Akram	0
D D Cork c Moin Khan	0
R B Croft not out	24
A D Mullally b Wasim Akram	24
Extras (nb, w, nb)	28
Total (90.2 overs)	208
2nd Innings (overs 283, 284, 285)	236
W Wasim Akram 28.2-6-24-2	100
R B Croft 28.2-6-24-2	100
W Wasim Akram 27-6-78-2	100
Aamir Sohail 9-11-0	58

Earlier Crawley, who has nerves with reinforcing rods in them, must have begun to wonder if the century that was so tantalisingly close would elude him as the lower order self-destructed against Wasim and Waqar.

He had barely trusted the scoreboard with a single to his overnight total when Salisbury, with ambition beyond his ability, tried to hook Wasim and succeeded only in top-edging the ball on to his right shoulder and in a parabola to first slip. Nor did Cork last in the following over, having survived a compelling case for leg-before, Cork slashed wildly at Waqar's next ball and was caught behind.

Now Crawley himself, four short of his hundred, was fortunate to survive a leg-before shout, this time from Wasim. The ball appeared to possess all the right credentials but C Coory shook his head impassively. So when, in the following over, Crawley flicked Waqar through mid-wicket towards the long square boundary and scampered four runs, it was like a burden lifted.

Perhaps this quelled his excitement; no clucking flat and punching the air; no scowls or snarls; just a wave of the bat, a dof of the helmet and back to business — all rather old-fashioned. So was his dismissal. Immediately after he had lambasted Waqar through the offside for his 12th boundary he was beaten by Waqar's pace and the low bounce and bowled.

His departure left the stage clear for Moin Khan to play one of those small No. 11 cameos that delight the crowd but drive the opposition scatty. Through a series of run-toutious heaves, assorted swats, a couple of pedigres thumps and one pruned pull that almost cortisoneed him to the crease, he contrived, in a dozen balls, to hit 24 of the 31 added with Croft for the last wicket before Waqar's slow full toss flattened his leg stump.



Running man... Aamir Sohail sets off for a single in his quickfire 46 that helped Pakistan get off to a flying start

Hoddle hit by injury blow

Neil Robinson

MANCHESTER United were handed the stiffest possible start in the Champions' League when they were drawn at the cup holders Juventus in their opening Group C match.

Alex Ferguson's side must also negotiate another "Journey to Hell", this time to the Turkish champions Fenerbahce, with the quartet completed by last year's Cup Winners' Cup finalists Rapid Vienna. Two teams go through from the group.

Juventus's strength can be gauged by the fact that they deemed Gianluca Viali and Fabrizio Ravanello surplus to requirements this summer. The coach Marcello Lippi added five players to the squad including Zinedine Zidane and Alan Boksic.

"Lippi is an outstanding manager, probably the best coach in Italy, and he knows exactly what he's doing," said Ferguson.

"But it's a reasonable draw for us. Obviously it's a tough start, having to play Juventus first when we'll probably have four players out — Phil Neville, Roy Keane, Eric Cantona and Andy Cole.

"We won't have our strongest side out, so I hope we don't get any other problems with players, but other than that, I think we've a good chance."

United's trip to Turin was the most exciting of the draws for British clubs. Rangers were placed in a tougher group alongside Ajax, Auxerre and Grasshoppers Zurich.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Liverpool travel to MyPa 47 in Finland, while in the UEFA Cup Swedish opposition awaits both Newcastle and Aston Villa in the form of Halmstad and Helsingborgs respectively. Arsenal and Celtic travel to Germany to play Borussia Moenchengladbach and Hamburg.

At least one British side is guaranteed a place in the next round: Barry Town and Aberdeen have been paired together.

David Lacey, page 11

Waqar ready to become Welsh for two seasons

Paul Weaver on the paceman with eyes on pastures greener than The Oval

WAQAR Younis, sprinting in from the Vauxhall End, yesterday became the fastest bowler ever seen in cricket. While wearing a sandwich-board, that is, and with a price-tag swinging from his neck like an overweight medalion.

The Wilkinson Sword Sniper machine, which measures a bowler's speed, is less than definitive in this matter but for someone with such handicaps to achieve around 85mph represents something of a record.

This morning Glamorgan are the favourites to sign him in a two-year deal reportedly worth more than £200,000 and may confirm as much in the next day or two. A number of other counties have also shown an interest, including his former employers Surrey.

Michael Fatkin, Glamorgan's cricket secretary, said yesterday that they were "very optimistic" of securing his services. "Our impression is that the challenge of coming to Glamorgan appeals and he knows how crucial Viv Richards was idled when he came here."

Glamorgan's captain Matthew Maynard, former chairman and captain Tony Lewis and cricket chairman Hugh Davies have all spoken to Waqar, whose agent says that terms had been agreed and an announcement was imminent.

There are factors that weigh against Waqar, apart from his wages. One is his age. In the book Waqar is 24, although he now admits to 26. No one wants to sign a player who would then throw away his Grecian 2000, reach for his slippers and announce himself as Methuselah's elder brother.

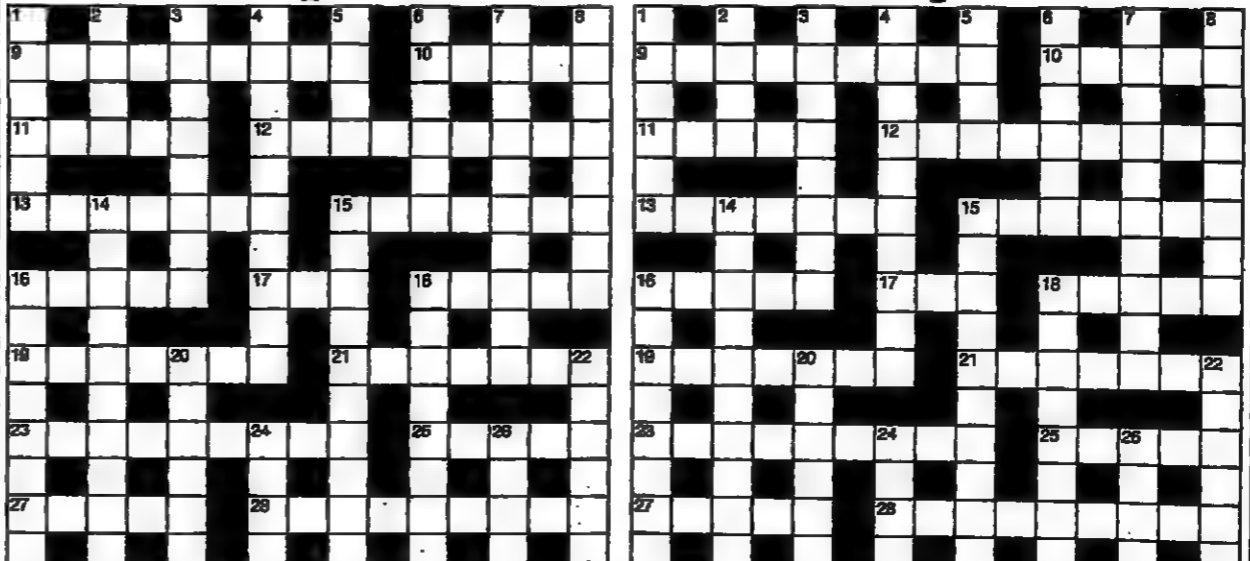
His fitness is a bigger worry. He missed the 1992 season with a back injury and the knowledge that there are more crocks out there than you can shake a crutch at is a concern for everyone. Shaun Pollock has just left Warwickshire and returned to South Africa for an ankle operation.

Derbyshire were betrayed by Ian Bishop's poor fitness. Hampshire's Winston Benjamin has just limped into retirement. Dion Nash has hobbled out of Lord's and you must remember Carl Rackemann who, shortly after joining Surrey, said angrily: "I'm not injury-prone — I'm injury-plagued."

Come to think of it, many overseas "stars" seem to come from the Dial-a-Durfer Agency. Everybody remembers Sobers and Hadlee, but other legendary names do not come so easily to mind. Remember Cuffey, Gray, Bryson and Tazelaar — and that's just Surrey?

Remember Hugh Page, Elvis Hoffer, Bruce Francisca, "Spook" Hanley, Corrie van Zyl, Peter Swart? Funny, nor do I.

Guardian COLLINS Double Prize Crossword No 20,740



Solutions include every single item from the motor works (early 20th century, found in 28(B); their clues (which are partial), grouped in chronological order, are: 16(A), 17(B), 19(B), 6(B), 26(B), 11(B), 28(B), and 15(B); 2(A), 21(A), 19(A), 8(A), 27(A), 18(B), and 2(B); 13(B); 5(A), 20(A), 18(A), 13(A), 24(A), 20(B), 9(B), and 11(A); 17(A), 24(B). Some clues at the same number are run together; the clue to the solution for the left-hand diagram (A) always precedes that for the right-hand diagram (B).

Set by Araucaria

Across

9 Main problem with reconstruction of Italy being beastly basic structures from which Otto's cork developed (8; 9)

10(A) Sound of guitarist at a loose end (5); (B) Old Testament soldier brandishing a Bren (5)

11(A), 17(A), 24(B) Much colour in fish (5, 3, 4); 11(B), 28(B) Cow, dead or injured (9)

12(A) Posh neighbour in measure of 2(B) is surviving (9); (B) Suppress feature of worm tyres (5, 4)

13(A) Beast to go first (3-4); (B) Old soothingly embracing returning princess (7)

15 Bolshevik agent eating too much French fruit with princess (7; 7)

16(A) Green without yellow is white (5); (B) Green from bird (American) (5)

17(A) See 11(A); (B) Piece of paper (3)

18 Cook tripe when inside bird for raising (5; 3)

19(A) Neighbouring lease (7); (B) A firm dry measure outside (7)

21(A) Lozange (7); (B) Relative (French, not English) with peculiar pet (7)

23(A) Little time left for cooking in awfully luke warm water, possibly (9); (B) No test for eggs without doctors (4, 5)

25 Sum up a number, going in to collect a swimmer on the Nile (5; 5)

27(A) Summit ends (5); (B) Poles are sick of household (5)

28 Marine went off and dined to give new life to collection of potentially hot 28(B) in any case (3, 3)

Down

1 Lunatic plan about assistant to general practitioner going to church in the morning for a drink? (8; 6)

2 Wagner opera? (4; 4)

3(A) Embroidery work is quite enough in the Southern Railway (8); (B) Our first turn, between you and me, repeatedly generating a lot of interest (8)

4(A) Caused solution to be got rid of (10); (B) Where financiers get the courage to go and break glass (6; 4)

5(A), 26(A) Torny entangled with Clea (4, 4); 5(B) it sounds a heavenly place (4)

6(A) Money that talked? (6; 6); 26(B) Clog? (10)

7(A) Piece of furniture with a lid, marvellous quiet (5, 5); (B) A twin takes on ascendant enemy, tallish (7(B), on appearance (3, 2, 1, 4)

8(A) A way to include a lot of spirit (8); (B) Displeasure about continued fighting (4-4)

14 Six people docked among fools paraded in jackboots in transport on mountain — within these four ...? (5-5; 10)

15(A) Sea-urchin for a shilling and a crown, formerly (4-6); 15(B), 2(A) Little in way, a little point; get it? (5, 5, 4)

16(A) 6(B) with blade or 21(A) with fish (3-5); (B) Petty cash endlessly used without change of parts (8)

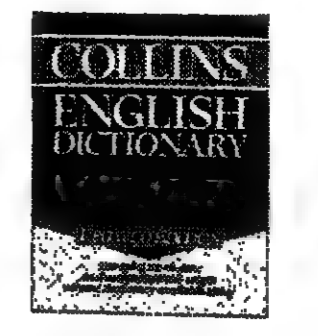
18 Way to abuse conspirator, a Scotsman (4-4; 6)

20 A 24(A) on 24(A) gets sailor not to work alloy

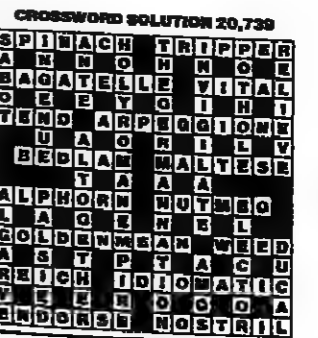
22(A) Baptist in heaven is a bird (6); (B) 17(B)s with tails, without heart, do sums (6)

24(A), 26(B) If backed, right-winger must drop first of donkeys (6); (B) see 11(A)

26(A) see 5(A); 26(B) see 24(A), 6(B), and 11(B)



maybe of 17(A) and 2(B) in changing-room: left turn (6; 6)



A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first ten correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,740, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday September 2.

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In a neat inversion of the more usual problem, here was a genuine picture going for fake money. Worse, the "sale", by falsely propping up confidence, effectively helped buy the art market another two years' worth of excess before the recessionary hurricane of 1990 hit with full force.

Dan Atkinson

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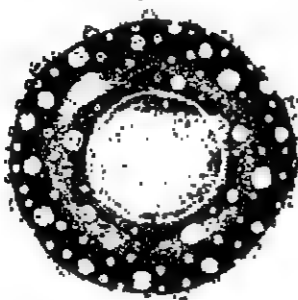
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The Guardian Outlook



From summer of love to winter of discontent... sixties Woodstock couple; blood samples (right) PHOTOGRAPH: TOM MINER (above) PHILIPPE PLALLY; BIRD (below) artist's impression of the virus

Curse of the Woodstock generation



They have it all - good jobs, nice houses, kids. Now their past is coming back to

haunt them in a disease with no cure. SARAH BOSELEY on the delayed shock of hepatitis C

EVERYBODY has done things they'd like to forget. Embarrassing things, illegal things or crazy things that were fun at the time but seem pretty gross looking back. Most of us can file them in a dusty corner of the memory and walk away. But there are some in their libraries, lawyers in chambers and businessmen in boardrooms whose past is coming back to revisit them in a most horrible way. The Woodstock generation, one doctor called them. Twenty or more years ago, when life was wilder and the sky more blue, they switched off, turned on and freaked out.

Then one hazy day, sprawled in a student bedsit or lying beneath the clouds at a heaving rock gig, someone handed them a needle and they stuck it in a vein. It may only have happened once, but they picked up an infection that can be as virulent as HIV. Decades later, these cleaned-up, respectable citizens are suffering from hepatitis C, a slowly progressing liver disease for which there is little treatment and no cure. It can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and cancer. Some have died. "We have had all sorts of people contact us about it," said Roger Holmes of the West Sussex drug advisory service,

co-author of the first significant study on the prevalence of the infection. "People who did stuff in the sixties, classically once at a party, and they are now university dons and lawyers and all sorts." Up to half a million people have hepatitis C in this country. Most of them don't know it. Those who do are not letting on. They've got good lives now, careers and children. Admitting to hepatitis C means letting out that small dark secret, for most people with the virus got it from intravenous drug use. "What happens is that you suddenly find your past catching up with you," said a systems analyst who was diagnosed in 1993. "It is a very



sobering kind of thought. The emotions that come up are anger and shame. Ideally, one would not want to be bound up with past indiscretions and experimentation. Ideally, one would like to have forgotten all that as unimportant." Instead, it changed your world. Statistics this month showed young people's drug use soaring. If they were not warned about the dangers of their behaviour, we would be long talking about the Oasis generation as well. What needs to be broadcast from the rooftops, and yet is not even being said by all the drug advisory services, is that even those who do not share needles are at risk. A tiny speck of dried blood, invisible to the naked eye, can remain infectious for three months. Sharing filters or spoons can give you hepatitis C. In the States, they are beginning to think you can get it through snorting cocaine through a rolled-up dollar bill — because of specks of blood from damaged nasal membranes. The Department of Health here says there are risks in tattooing and possibly electrolysis, ear-piercing and acupuncture. Sexual transmission occurs, but not frequently. The bill is going to be high. The few experts in the field of this virus, which was discovered in 1989, say the health services are not gearing up fast enough. The only conventional treatment available is alpha-interferon, which is very expensive. Some health authorities will not pay for it because the relapse rate is high. Many GPs know too little about hepatitis C to spot it in the first place. Nor do the patients for many years, because there may be no symptoms until the liver is diseased. But the commonest first complaint is of total and inexplicable exhaustion. It hit Claire, 36, who lives in Bath, after the birth of her first child. "I experienced terrible exhaustion, headaches, muscle pain, anger, anxiety and insomnia," she said. "Because I had a couple of children, both caesarians, and operations afterwards, I and the doctors tended to put it down to other factors." She got no better. "I felt such terrible malaise that I wondered if it was linked with depression from not working any more and being home with two small children." Then she began to get pains in her stomach and intolerable headaches. She was diagnosed as having hepatitis C in January of last year. "I was horrified. There was no good news. To be told you have got something which could potentially give you cancer of the liver and that you might go on feeling as you do for ever — that it is virtually incurable." She was married, with a girl of six and a boy of three, and she had inadvertently visited her parents, although in his business he knows people who have got it that way. There's a lot of hepatitis C in west London, he said, particularly among those who were wealthy kids from good families in the seventies. "There were a lot of disaffected middle-class children caught up in changing attitudes towards class with a little too much money and no ambitions. They found the place they had enjoyed in society was no longer there. They got into heroin." But not de Havilland. He picked up hepatitis C from a blood transfusion when he was nine. He did not know it until last year. "I'm a bit of a mess," he made the Junior Olympics swimming team in 1975 — and only 84, he should have everything going for him. Yet 10 days in the last 12 have seen his lean 83m frame collapse in bed. He has muscle wastage — he's lost over a stone. "I've got a big dose of the virus from a blood transfusion. His entire liver is cirrhotic. "I feel very tired all the

my previous life was something he had to do. At first he was terribly angry with me. There was a lot of tension about that." To her enormous relief, the children tested negative. She was advised not to tell their school she had hepatitis C, for fear of a needless scare over the children, but she went through hell, she says, because she could not explain why her daughter was constantly late and without her dinner money. With her children she was tired, up and down, unable to finish tasks and sometimes bedridden. Like an increasing number of sufferers, she took Chinese traditional medicine — acupuncture and herbs — for some months before she was prescribed interferon. She has been on it for a year and just been advised to stick with it for six more months. Simon, who also lives in the West Country, has been less lucky. His health authority will not fund interferon treatment, even though research is beginning to show that the results are better the earlier you take it. Not that the results are that wonderful for anyone. Half of those treated for six months relapse. The rest are in remission. He has been advised to eat a good diet and rest. It's not easy. He runs his own business, installing stage lighting for shows and exhibitions. He also has three small children — a girl of five and two boys, aged two and six months. "The last few weeks I've only been able to manage a day to a day-and-a-half's work," he said. Simon knows how he contracted hepatitis C. "I cleaned up in 1984. I'd been a registered

Up to half a million have Hepatitis C in the UK. Most of them don't know it. Those who do are not letting on

addict from the age of 17 to 25. It didn't take me long to make a complete mess of my life. But I cleaned up completely. I went to college and trained to become an electrician and started my own business. After I'd been clean for five years, I got married." He has told his immediate family but no one else. Peter de Havilland, a composer of classical music and producer in the pop business who was once Boy George's writing partner in the Culture Club days, has been open about his infection. It didn't come from drugs, although in his business he knows people who have got it that way. There's a lot of hepatitis C in west London, he said, particularly among those who were wealthy kids from good families in the seventies. "There were a lot of disaffected middle-class children caught up in changing attitudes towards class with a little too much money and no ambitions. They found the place they had enjoyed in society was no longer there. They got into heroin." But not de Havilland. He picked up hepatitis C from a blood transfusion when he was nine. He did not know it until last year. "I'm a bit of a mess," he made the Junior Olympics swimming team in 1975 — and only 84, he should have everything going for him. Yet 10 days in the last 12 have seen his lean 83m frame collapse in bed. He has muscle wastage — he's lost over a stone. "I've got a big dose of the virus from a blood transfusion. His entire liver is cirrhotic. "I feel very tired all the

Continued on page 16

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Blackest farce in Moscow

THE CHECHEN PROBLEM is also the Yeltsin problem. Whether the ceasefire organised by Alexander Lebed lasts for any length of time may depend in the short term upon the Russian army commanders in the field. But the confusion of command and the lack of clear orders is the responsibility of the president.

Mr Yeltsin earned some relatively favourable reviews on Thursday by appearing less wooden than before and cracking the odd joke. Yet the real question is what he thought he was doing by sniping at the authority of Mr Lebed. Mr Yeltsin's comment, that the results of his security chief's work in Chechnia were "not yet obvious", was banal and meaningless. Yesterday *Izvestiya* speculated that Mr Yeltsin might simply be out of touch with what Mr Lebed was trying to do. This would not be surprising. Mr Yeltsin had apparently spent the previous two days on a brief lakeland vacation in north-western Russia — inspecting the facilities before deciding whether to take a longer vacation there. Whatever his physical health may be he seems at

least semi-detached from reality. Chechnia is not one local crisis too many for the rest of the world to be worrying about. It is a human tragedy of huge proportions in its own right, with more than 30,000 people, mostly civilians, killed and hundreds of thousands displaced or living in fear and uncertainty. It is also a war which corrodes and corrupts whatever chance there may be of some politics emerging in Moscow. It is a measure of popular alienation with the government that virtually no one is in favour of the war, yet no one bothers to demonstrate against it. The letter sent this week by President Clinton to Mr Yeltsin, urging him to pursue a negotiated settlement, was an important initiative which should be matched by similar approaches from the EU and individual European countries. Such approaches should be copied to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who appears to have retreated into his office to brood about the economy, with the warning that financial support for Russia will be in jeopardy unless the war ends.

If Mr Lebed manages to see Mr Yeltsin and secure his approval for the ceasefire plan, then immediate steps have to be taken to put the military forces on a shorter leash. Mr Lebed has not helped by his earlier provocative remarks questioning their competence. The answer is not to invest all authority in one supreme, but to bring all the strands of command into a working relationship — again a job for the president or his prime minister. There are several layers of ambiguity here. One is the division between the forces of the hawkish interior minis-

try and those of the army. (This reflects a larger problem — the subject yesterday of public complaint by the defence minister Igor Rodionov — of divided authority, and competition for budgets, between the armed forces and troops controlled by half a dozen other ministries or government services. Another is the weak line of command between the commanders in Chechnia and their superiors in Moscow, which earlier this week allowed the acting commander General Pulikovskiy to issue an ultimatum while both his boss and the defence minister were on holiday. The general was acting on the basis of a presidential order signed, according to Mr Lebed, with a facsimile signature. Mr Lebed's claim was then denied by Mr Yeltsin's office — in an unsigned statement. This is the blackest sort of farce.

While seeking urgently to bring the military under control, a peace plan for Chechnia which provides at least for full autonomy has to be worked out. The details are important — and not easy — but the precondition for any such effort to be made will be the withdrawal of Russian forces from Grozny, and as far as possible from Chechnia as a whole.

Mr Lebed's original elevation, as the price for buying his supporters' second-round support for Mr Yeltsin in the presidential campaign, was a worrying move. But now he is the only person trying to do anything constructive. Mr Yeltsin's casual behaviour, and the military bickering, is even more worrying. No wonder that some commentators in Moscow are beginning to sniff the air for the omens of a new coup.

Through the gateway

SOMETHING about John Birt puts some in mind of a great Victorian explorer: hacking on with pith-helmeted zeal in the face of trials which would have lesser men packing for home, utterly sure of his mission, singing about his work even while tigers prowl and alligators snap. Last night in Edinburgh, before an audience which seemed certain to be infected with disaffection, he wasted no more than a sentence on worries about the World Service, the erosion of the old radio/TV division or the profound implications of the producer/broadcaster split. The Jeremiahs, he said, had been wrong again. "We", the director-general declared, "are a BBC on song."

Mr Birt has learned to live in the future, for which orthodox maps are now useless: a future he hailed as full of vast opportunities for an on-song BBC. But also a world full of hazards: the toughest being the issue of who in a time of unprecedented competition for audience attention should control "the gateway into the home in the digital age". What would happen when we switched on? Would BBC1 surface automatically, as it does now? Or would powerful commercial forces be first in the frame, marginalising the public provider? "The battle for control of this gateway, and a share of the enormous economic value passing through [it]," he said, "will be one of the

great business battles shaping the next century." The name Rupert Murdoch did not occur in this passage. It didn't need to.

The first in the field has no special rights in such battles. So how can the BBC survive? Not, on Mr Birt's analysis, through constant heavy intervention and regulation: "the way forward is not to stop anything." Partly, he suggested, it would need an alertness which a complacent BBC had failed to muster against the first Murdoch assault. But his is also an argument for Big broadcasting — for the BBC to stay centre-stage, not to give up and retreat only into those areas the market will not provide.

And so in the end his 21st century adventure came back to that oldest of remedies (but one which the BBC has not dared suggest for a decade) — a higher licence fee. It has yet to be shown — after long and assiduous searching — that any other solution at present on offer would effectively buttress and guarantee a prime place for national culture in broadcasting. Mr Birt's carefully constructed argument is that in terms of modernisation and efficiency (the proof he offers is the internal criticism he has had to take) he has earned the right to make this demand. But when everything, on his own analysis, is so utterly changed, when diversity rules, this case may take some sustaining. If you were starting from here, would you invent anything like the BBC? That's a question not only market-minded Tories are asking: it's being asked, as he has every reason to know, in the highest reaches of the alternative government too.



Hands across the seas

Anger over immigration flares again in Paris: MARTIN WOOLLACOTT examines the continuing problem of state versus human rights. Illustration by PETER TILL

ON THE one hand, the state and its prerogatives, its law and its inviolability, the citizen and his rights properly elevated above those of outsiders, the nation guarding its gates, and the nation raised to strike. On the other, the claims of victims, of the unlucky, of children who do not yet know the meaning of the word "France" — let alone the answer to the question of whether they are part of France or not, and the spectacle of people dragged away by men in uniform. The police assault on the church of Saint-Bernard in Paris is symptomatic of the time of troubles over immigration which both Europe and

America are now entering. These are a result both of real pressures from migrants and of the less than coherent, less than kind, response of governments and peoples to those pressures. The presentation of immigration as a problem divorced from all the forces which create it is one aspect of that response. The use of immigrants as scapegoats and as symbols is another, often eclipsing reality.

The very idea of a "solution" to immigration is in itself unreliable, since the movement of people is, and always has been, part of the intricate, shifting balance of the globe as its zones of safety, prosperity, and cultural energy expand and contract and its means of mobility evolve. In a

much, much more equal world, migration flows might diminish: that is about all that can be said. Such a world is far away, and meanwhile, solutions can only be temporary, ad hoc compromises. Yet, if migrants have always moved, governments have always tried to control them. Free movement is far from realised even within the national boundaries of democracies, where it is controlled by invisible barriers of property and money. Elsewhere the constraints are even more serious, not so much now to the people to whom they were born but to force them to move from those places to others where they do not particularly want to go.

Frequently, the immigration we see in the West from the poorer countries is the second or third stage of such a dislocation. It is a process which will, for instance, take a Kurd in south-eastern Turkey from his ancestral village to the outskirts of a Turkish town, then to a big city in eastern Turkey, and finally to a street in Berlin or Bremen,

A new spin on PM's paranoia

Rattling the bars



Ian Aitken

AMID all the furors — well all right then, the modest controversy — over the recent television programme purporting to reveal the true reason for Harold Wilson's resignation from the premiership, one name was unaccountably missing from the cast list. Joe Haines — not so much Wilson's spin doctor as his mad axeman — headed the list, and settled a few old scores in characteristic style. Marcia Williams, aka Lady Falkender, seems to have been one of the scores Joe was settling, because her rare appearances invariably showed her scowling horribly. Former cabinet secretary John Hunt got the star slot, thanks to his cheerful confirmation that some MIS spooks really had been out to get Wilson.

But there wasn't even a mention of the spookiest of all Wilson's spook-obsessed familiars. This individual was the late Colonel George Wigg, someone Labour MP for Dudley and later a peer of the realm. The omission was distinctly odd, since the good colonel was Wilson's self-appointed adviser on security matters, and daily filled his ear with all kinds of convoluted poison masquerading as intelligence.

George Wigg's political career finally hit the buffers after a bizarre personal scandal. But in his day he was a major power in the land. It was Labour minister Jack Profumo as Macmillan's war minister, exposing the Christine Keeler affair in an act of personal vengeance which stemmed from his conviction that Profumo had lied to him in the Commons.

As a backbencher, he used to patrol the members' lobby seeking journalists on whom to plant his often dodgy stories. Serving out the reality from the fantasy was difficult, because Wigg always talked in riddles, backing up his nudges and winks with the catch-

phrase: "Bullshit baffles brains."

So devious was he that he once unloaded a dicy yarn on to a Daily Mail reporter, only to raise the story as a breach of privilege the next day. The luckless Mallman was debarred by the lobby's masonic rules of secrecy from revealing that Wigg himself was his source — something Wigg knew all along.

Yet this was the man Wilson appointed as his Paymaster-General in 1964. The job, which involved unique access to the prime minister, was the colonel's reward for having (according to Wigg) "masterminded" Wilson's campaign for the leadership against George Brown in 1963.

I thought at the time that Wigg's menacing brand of electioneering did Wilson more harm than good. But his recruitment to the No 10 team was a disaster. He stalked up Wilson's anxiety about plots with an endless supply of rumour and innuendo, some about perfectly innocent colleagues. Compared to him, Peter Mandelson is a babe in arms.

□ SPEAKING of Peter Mandelson, pulses in Fleet Street's royal rat pack must have quickened at the Queen's suggestion that Queen could do worse than take him on as HM spin doctor. But if that seemed a novel idea, I recommend a glance at the current issue of *History Today*, which contains an erudite survey of royal spin doctoring down the ages by Ray Boston.

We soon learn that that there is nothing new about it. Even Dr Johnson turns out to have been a spin doctor of 59 in as well as a D.Lit. earner, £300 a year for howling verbal googles for not one but two Georges.

But Mr Boston's best discovery is the existence of one Joseph Doane, a shadowy figure appointed by Pitt in 1805 to put a favourable spin on the King's supposed madness. He bore the title of Reporter to the Press, and later of Court Newswriter, and his activities were being "remarkably well managed" at last.

Mr Major might therefore care to study how Pitt's government managed to get Fleet Street to pay most of Doane's substantial salary of £512.7s. The charge to the royal purse was just £63.1s, for which modest outlay they secured the loyal support of the *Times*. This was, of course, before Rupert Murdoch became proprietor of that fine newspaper. Happy days.

Smallweed



THE circumstances of the death of the composer Anton von Webern are fairly well known. In the autumn of 1945, he was living near Salzburg with his daughter and son-in-law. The Americans,

suspecting the son-in-law of black market activities, sent men to arrest him. One of them bumped into Webern, who had gone outside for a smoke, and shot the composer dead.

What I didn't realise until the other day was that the Americans made a practice of those things. An obituary of the eccentric conductor Sergiu Celibidache revealed that he only got his job as conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic in 1945 because the original appointee was shot by an American soldier after he failed to stop at a sentry point. This leaves Smallweed feeling uneasy. If there were two such fatalities, can we be sure that there wasn't a third? Do we know as much as we should, for example, about the death of Massenet, composer of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and a number of less successful concoctions? Or the deaths of Alessandro Longo, Italian

pianist and composer, and Gino Marinuzzi, ditto; or of the great Irish tenor, Count John McCormack? All of whom, significantly, you may think died in 1945.

MENTION of Count McCormack leads me to a second mystery. In yesterday's *Guardian*, various celebrities were asked to name the music they would like to have played at their funerals. Terry Major-Ball, brother to the Prime Minister, selected two items: the *Happy Wanderer*, and *I'll Take You Home Kathleen*, in the version by Josef Locke. "My father used to say it was the only song written about Ireland by an Irish person," he added.

This seems a quite extraordinary statement. Who wrote *Danny Boy*? (Anon, I suspect, but Anon may well have been Irish.) Or *The Rose of Tralee*? There surely

must have been others in Locke's locker, and certainly in the repertoire of the Count, who held nationalist views. Initially a star of the operatic stage — he made his debut in Savona under the son-in-law of Giovanni Pollarini — he later developed a taste for items of musical kitsch, so much so that Grove mournfully says of him: "He devoted his extraordinary and unimpaired gifts too largely to sentimental and popular ditties, not to be listened to with patience by critics or with enjoyment by true music-lovers." Smallweed appeals to his readers, music-lovers included, to hunt out their old 78s and test the truth of this curious teaching.

His last words were: "Good on-drive, Stewart" — as England's opening batsman powered his way to a century in the second test against Pakistan

— Times obituary of Alfred Douilton, headmaster of Highgate School 1855-74.

THE previously unpublished works by T S Eliot, one of which was quoted on the front of this newspaper yesterday, clearly vary in quality, but in Smallweed's view they succeed in refuting (in the sense of overthrowing, not just of rebutting) a characteristically reactionary opinion of Alexander Pope.

Eliot came very close to doing this in the verse printed on page one, at the point where the cook explains what she thought the jolly tinker with the extraordinary whanger was planning to do to the assembled company. This line was marred, however, by the presence of the drossy libellous word "gonna" (demotic, I guess, for "going to") and one had to turn inside to see the job done properly. Here,

long before the final version was published, Eliot had penned this line for Prufrock: "To spit out all the butt ends of my days and ways." This confounds the rule laid down by Pope in his *Essay On Criticism* against the repeated use of single-syllable words, a practice which he condemns in the line: "And ten low words oft creep in one dull line." Eliot's 12-monosyllable line about spit may be bleak, but it certainly isn't dull. The line about the whanger isn't dull either.

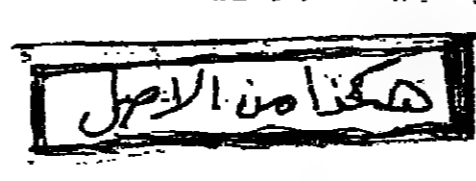
Incidentally, Chambers Dictionary has written pointing out that it doesn't, as I alleged, equate "imply" with "infer": it merely says that others do so (ie, it's colloquial usage). It also recommends me to study its extensive coverage of refute and rebut, which I will, when my monosyllable is full enough to enable me to pay for its product.

"A child, my father told me..." — the former TV celebrity Katie Boyle, in one of those pieces where people mander on about their health which now take up so much of the *Daily Mail*.

LIKE the dog in the Sherlock Holmes story that failed to bark in the night, a pundit writes of the crisis in Chechnia, the failure of the Russian army to assert its influence requires some explanation. What also requires some explanation is why people who write in newspapers so often fall back on this dog. As in, for example, this: "As far as theatre goes, this year's Edinburgh Festival is likely to be remembered as the one at which the dog didn't bark." Or this: "When the history of the so-called Beef War with Europe comes to be written, the point to which

most attention may well be directed is the curious incident of the dog that didn't bark. This dog is, of course, the man who has said that he 'would never allow this country to be isolated in Europe'." The financial pages, for reasons I can't understand, are especially glibly using this hackneyed old formula to pep up pieces on the future of accountability. This dog is dog tired. It is time it stopped not barking so often. Perhaps we should put it down.

THE last two opinion polls have shown Tories going up, not down, since they launched their new campaign against Tony Blair. Could it be that Chastrian Maowhinney has discovered the secret which Waqar Yousaf possesses and our own quick bowlers do not reverse swing?



David Guterson got up before dawn for seven years to write a book no one would publish. Now it's a huge bestseller

Dreams but little sleep in Seattle



The Joanna Coles Interview

WHEN David Guterson was offered \$18,000 for his first novel, he decided to reject it on the grounds that he was sure he could get more. After all, he had spent the previous seven years getting up early and writing before going off to teach at the local high school and he knew it was worth more than that. Besides, it wasn't as if he was holding out for millions, he just wanted enough to be able to give up his \$26,000 teaching job and write full-time. So his agent bagged up more manuscripts and sent them out. They all came back with rejection slips.

"He'd ring up and say: 'Tim, sorry David, they don't want it. I'd ask him why not, and he'd shrug and say, 'They just don't like it. They don't think it works.' So eventually Guterson was forced to ring up Harcourt Brace and say he'd reconsidered. He wanted very much to accept their offer of \$18,000.

"It just goes to show how little they know," he says incredulously, heading off for the breakfast buffet of his London hotel. "They can't tell, they really can't. That's their job — to be able to tell — and they can't.

Since its publication 18 months ago Snow Falling On Cedars (marketed as a "Nordic thriller" even though Guterson is American and the book is set in the Pacific northwest) has sold more than 2 million copies. Armed with good reviews, British booksellers have already flooded half a million copies since it came out here last year. "It's without parallel," says Liz Calder, head of Bloomsbury. "In my experience of publishing literary fiction, this is absolutely the only time something has gone whoosh like this."

"Ugh, that looks gross, dad," grumbles Taylor Guterson, as his father returns bearing a bowl of Bircher Muesli, you know, the sort which looks as if it's already

been pre-chewed in the kitchen by a Swiss chef. "Try this," says David, pushing a blueberry muffin in Taylor's direction. "Ugh, what is it?" hisses Taylor, fingering the roll in disgust, before pushing it back across the table and announcing he'd prefer "Rice Krispies with lots of sugar".

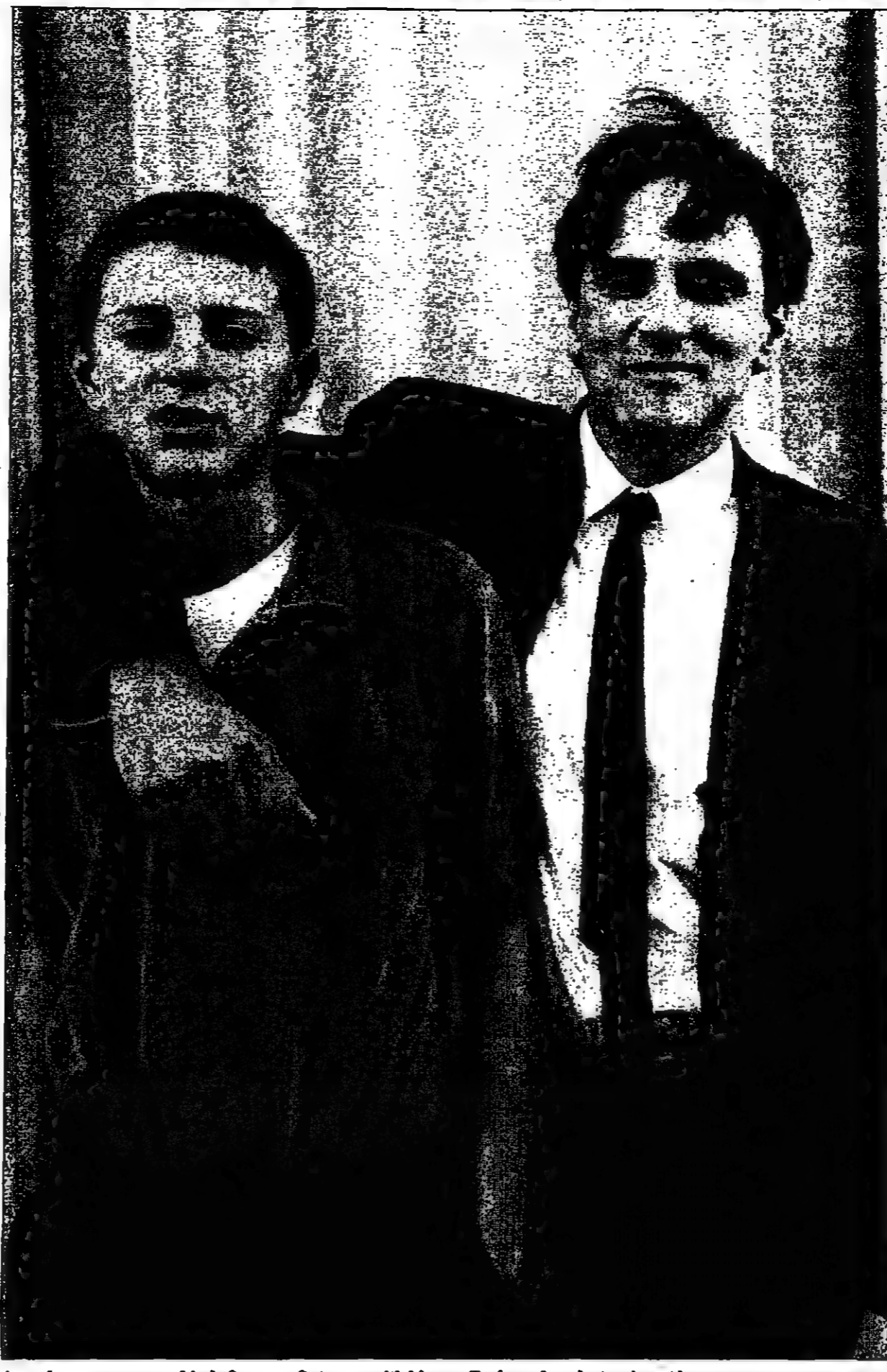
"Yeah, two million copies and it's been translated into 22 languages," says Guterson, as Taylor puts down his spoon and lifts the bowl of Rice Krispie straight to his mouth. "Careful, Taylor," mutters his dad, in that special parental tone designed to avoid a scene. Taylor, who I assumed to be about 12, turns out to be 15, and like his three siblings has been educated at home — more of which later. The waiter, who has been observing us, quietly spirits the bowl away.

"I'm going upstairs to write postcards," announces Taylor sulkily. So the book came out, whooshed up the bestseller lists and Guterson gave up the teaching job. Otherwise, he says, life goes on much as before. They are still renting the same house on the beautiful, if cold, Puget Island, half an hour's ferry ride from Seattle, for \$225 a month. How much? "You should see the house," he says, smiling. "The heat is just firewood we cut ourselves. We get our eggs from the neighbour."

On oh, he's beginning to sound like Aunt Muriella from Anne of Green Gables. "You can live simply and cheaply, which is what we did until the novel hit," he adds. "They, you know the Groucho Club?" I nod, about to confess more than a passing acquaintance with London's coterie of literary and journalistic gossip, when he interrupts. "God!" he cries and starts laughing. "We stayed there for our first night and it was full of these awful people having the most pompous conversations about books! There was a man yelling at a woman about a movie! I had to ask our publishers to move us to somewhere more English."

Oh dear, I promptly find myself wanting to ask a very Groucho Club question. Just how much money has he made from Snow Falling? "About 40 cents a book. Put it this way, we bought some property and we're building a house. And I can get up a bit later. I used to get up a couple hours before the family to write."

"What time was that then, I ask, about 5am?" "I would get up at 4.30am," he says.



A one-beer, one-woman kind of guy... Guterson with his son, Taylor, whom he teaches at home PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARBLES

I assume from such dedication that Guterson has always wanted to write. Wrong. His interest developed only at university where he stumbled on a creative writing course in between marine biology and oceanology. He realised he liked it because he kept on writing short stories long after the course had finished. "I saw you had to be very disciplined person. You have to be able to sit on your own for a long time. And I felt this was the right thing for me. But how easy is sitting on your own for long periods when you have four kids? "My natural inclination is not antisocial but it's very pleasurable for me to sit in my study with the door shut. A lot of people have to get up and walk away. I don't feel that way, it's pleasurable."

It is pleasurable, too, talking to Guterson in Brown's Hotel, Piccadilly. Delightfully unpretentious, he's charming and relaxed, which he attributes to hiking for the last week with Taylor in the Dolomites, on a research trip for his new novel. I am not sure, however, why this son of a defence attorney, who topped his degree at the University of Washington with further studies at the Ivy League college of Brown, should try so hard to convince of his unso-

phistication. Take the following: "I like a beer with my supper, but when we were in Italy I felt as if we should order some wine. So on our first night in the hotel we ordered a bottle and had a little glass each, but we didn't really care for it. The next night they brought us out the same bottle with a cork in it, and we only finished it on our last night!"

WHY does he pretend to be so unworldly when his novel, a multi-layered elegiac thriller, is anything but? I'm suspicious. Can he be as wholesome as he appears?

"I'm doing what I'm doing and thinking about giving it up, and it makes me preoccupied and morose. I would admit to being selfish, I can't help it. I'm pretty insistent, but I think I'm a good family man. There's other things you have to give up."

Such as? "I don't have any social life," he says, adding hastily, "nor do I want one. I don't waste any time sitting around with friends drinking and talking."

That sounds a bit pious. Normally people who say things like that don't have any friends. Does Guterson have friends? "Yeah, my kids! We go walking and fishing and hunting, it's great."

They also go "home-schooling" with Guterson and his wife Robyn, a speech therapist "who hasn't worked outside the home since the children were born". Home-schooling, he insists, is not as uncommon in America as it is here. "It's part of the fundamental notion of individual freedom."

Even so, how can parents manage the whole curriculum between them? "Teaching in schools is inherently flawed," he claims. "Education is at its best when it's not institutionalised." So what would a typical day be like at *Home Schooling*?

"There would be days where they wouldn't do very much, then one of them would say, 'Oh, look up at the stars.' Now, in a non-home-schooling family a parent would say, 'Well we can talk a little bit about that right now,' but down the road someone else is responsible for teaching them about it."

"In a home-school we would say, 'Hey, the kid is interested, let's stay with this as long as he's interested.' So you buy a telescope, and you have the educational process of putting

the telescope together; what is a lens, why do we see the moon at night? What is light? You get some books or get on the Internet and have a chat with astronomers. The great thing is you learn, too, and it's so much better learning about it after dinner than just putting on the television and starting at it."

But don't children need to socialise with each other? "The kinds of socialisation they have at school is not all that healthy, it can be neurotic. Schools can be sinister places, with constant competition, social, academic, athletic." "So can families, I murmur, though he doesn't hear."

"I don't like the term home-schooling," he continues, although he wrote a book using the term in the title. "I think education in the world is better, spending all day with all ages, not cloistered with people of your own age. We like to put the old people in one place and the young people in another place."

At this point Taylor re-emerges, postcards written. Did he like being home-schooled? "Parts," he grunts. Which parts? "Like not having to get up early."

Has he read his dad's book yet? "I tried but then I quit. Dad, can I be in the photo?"

from his perambulations through other countries' research. "In Japan, a study showed that 57 per cent of patients with hepatitis C develop liver cancer within 10 years. That is much higher than they have been saying."

Get out of my way — or I'll honk my horn even louder

Driving on India's roads is not for the faint-hearted. SUZANNE GOLDENBERG tells how she toughened up

THE first moments are sheer terror. Apply key to ignition, and the low hum of an engine lurches violently, threatening to develop into a full-scale shunt before you reach the corner.

Most people find the idea of driving in Delhi overwhelming: a lawless snarl of cars, auto-rickshaws, buses, hand-carts and motor-cycles all fighting as if their drivers' lives depended on advancing one inch farther down the road than the motorists alongside them.

The coves that are only palely visible in the moonlight on a dark stretch of road, the unmarked speed bumps, the bewildered villager standing stock-still in a swirl of vehicles — these are the stuff fatal accidents are made of.

That's why those who could afford it generally hired a driver, and few women dared to take the wheel. But now it's not uncommon to see women slaloming through stalled traffic on motor-cycles, or hunched with fatigue over the steering wheel.

Not that they are universally tolerated. On the plains of north India, where machismo rules, why should any son of the soil tolerate a woman in a car, let alone a female driving a faster and flashier vehicle than his? Pity the man who has just been overtaken, modernity has deprived him of his birthright.

The automobile became worthy of India's affection a decade ago. Until the early 1980s, cars broadly came in two types: the Padmini Premier, a copy of a 1950s Fiat, and the capacious Ambassador.

Then the Maruti arrived, an Indian-assembled Suzuki launched as the people's car: it is reliable and cheap. Jeep-like vehicles followed: of varying size and heartiness for Indians to rediscover their roots on rough country roads. As nineties consumer culture took hold, the executive car appeared: a Korean sedan for the upper classes, a Mercedes for the seriously rich.

Nowhere is as car-crazy as New Delhi, where lead emission levels have doubled over the past eight years, and where 2.8 million vehicles — more than Calcutta, Madras and Bombay have combined — have created a cacophonous and smoky hell.

I drive a Gypsy four-wheel drive, now considered slightly déclassé, possibly because its counterpart has been withdrawn from the American market for falling safety standards.

Mine is outfitted with a robust wooden steering wheel, an outrageously suggestive gear shift — best of all — an amplification switch for the horn:

loud, louder, loudest. For a moderately conscientious motorist, death is everywhere. It beckons from the middle of the road, forcing commuters to run at full tilt to the safety of the kerb.

It waves a cheery hello along with the posse of children riding with their legs dangling out of the open backhatch of a Maruti.

If turns full-scale predator in the form of the male motorist, who exhibits various responses to the sight of a female driver. He may flash his high beams, swerve across the lane with death-defying nonchalance, or leer from behind the steering wheel at a red light — if by some freak of nature he observes the traffic signals, honking comes as naturally to him as breathing.

If he is piloting a bus or lorry, he may deliver a little tap to the rear bumper — though this may not be interpreted as a friendly gesture. Should he be a parking attendant, he may choose to approach the driver's side by stealth, suddenly thrusting a grimy parking ticket through the window at chest level.

Almost all the women drivers of my acquaintance have stories from the car

Road rage... the melée of rush-hour traffic in Indian cities; death is all around PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN PARKER

Wars. One normally demure English lecturer says she does not fully wake up until she has had a few angry exchanges on the way to work.

A friend in Calcutta means the lack of swear words in the Hindi language. My moment of glory came when I swerved to block the car honking maniacally behind, and then got out to inquire sweetly whether its driver was trying to send a distress signal.

In time, not only can you learn to conquer your own fear: you, too, can become a terror of the road. Imagine that you are in the middle of a life-size video game where all that matters is moving ahead.

There is an undeniable liberty in driving as badly as anyone else. Just think of it: no seat-belts, no stop signs, no regard to speed or your fellow motorists.

The sleeping disease

Continued from page 13

utter helplessness. He was invited to join the Park Lane competition next year. He has ideas for a piece for piano and a string section. "That exercise is so intellectual... getting my head around it is so difficult." Instead, he has read the Complete Works of Morpheus and the autobiography of Sir Malcolm Sargent, with scores of the music he conducted, and embarked on "an inward journey."

"When one has this amount of time on one's hands, one tends to start looking inward. I'm not so much of a people-pleaser any more... life is very short. I'm going to survive. My main fear is in what state." His hopes are pinned to participating in a trial in the autumn of interferon with another drug, ribavirin.

Gavin was in the music business too, a singer-song-writer who was going to make

it big in the eighties until his recreational drug use turned into a heroin habit. "A lot of people were doing it and didn't get habits," he said. "There's a perception about heroin that you come into contact with it and get addicted. A lot of people dabble with it and leave it."

"In the eighties, I remember fixing myself up in a large London teaching hospital with some junior doctors who had brought heroin back from India."

But it was in the pop world that he saw most drug use. "My perception is that there are going to be hundreds and hundreds of people in the music business infected by this virus."

He joined his habit in 1985, went to university and got an MSc in social work. "I got a whole new life and career" — and a partner and three children, now six, eight and 14.

Working in a drug agency, he realised what could be the problem when he began to get symptoms last winter — the chronic fatigue, the muscle aches and pains and a bout of memory loss. It was hepatitis C, sure enough. Gavin has just begun a course of interferon and ribavirin. He feels good so far and thinks it's right for



him, but advises people to think carefully before going for it — if they can get it. For some, the side-effects are as depression. I'm not sure every single drug user hasn't been labelled depressed as a child and it's one of the major side-effects of interferon.

She does every alternative therapy going instead — Chinese traditional medicine, acupuncture, essential oils. She has not drunk alcohol for six years. Just as well, because if she does Hepatitis C does to the liver.

Most drug users with Hepatitis C have not got cirrhosis — yet. The Department of Health says 10 to 20 per cent will develop it and fewer still will get cancer. Matthew Dolan, coping with hepatitis C by writing a book about the virus, is more pessimistic

Peter de Havilland (above): 'There are going to be hundreds of people in the music business infected by this virus'

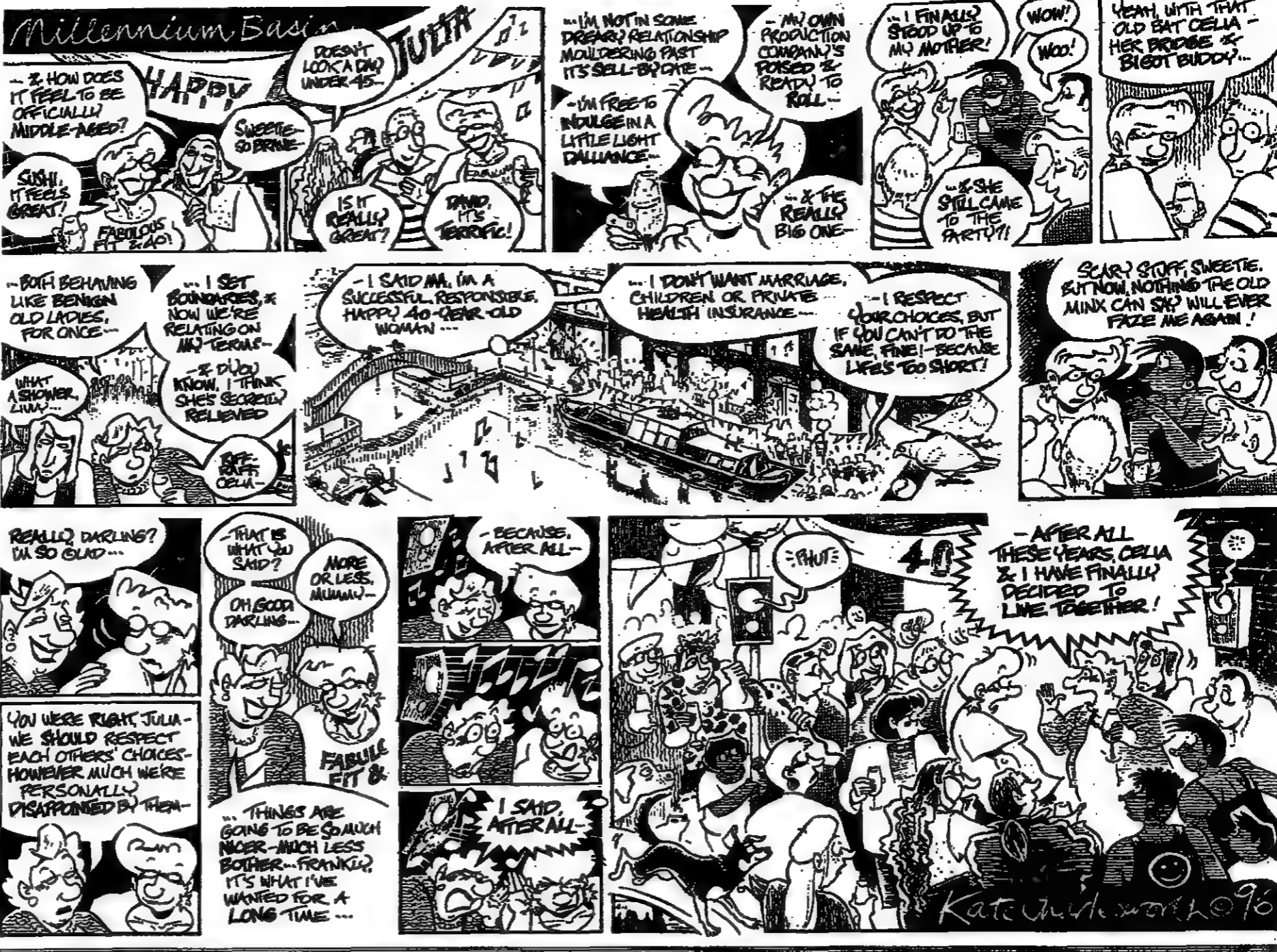
The Guardian International Umbrella. Protect yourself from the elements with the stylish Guardian International umbrella. This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle. £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.

16 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In defence of the motor car

It is irresponsible of you to say (Leader, August 22) that people are dying from car exhaust pollution...

icient for passenger transport and freight movement as cars and lorries. Furthermore, they are massively subsidised by government (as taxpayers) and do not pay their real costs to society.



Sale of the service

It was astounding to find Sir Peter Levene, an untested adviser, responding to my letter on the CFQ programme...

tion that the private sector can bring about efficiencies in ways the public sector cannot.

David, Roy and Peter in a spin

DAVID Blunkett will not stop the campaign against Labour's spin doctors if he attacks an argument which is not being put (No hegemony in the shadows, August 19).

Standard assessment

THE DEBATE on examination standards (Leader, August 22) is in danger of ignoring the social and political context.

have seen the higher levels of achievement that can result: We must make National Vocational Qualifications less bureaucratic, less jargon-ridden and cheaper to assess.

The end of the peer show starring Betty Boothroyd

YOUR description of a day in the life of a working peer (Working peers confused popular myth of oxymoron, August 22) was incomplete.

parties' voting strength, the Tories and Labour could divide the spoils almost entirely between them.

4 SHIRTS FOR £15. SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS 4 FOR JUST £15. ROCK BOTTOM PRICES DO NOT MISS THIS SUPERB OFFER.

WONDER how many readers found such supreme irony in reading that Roy Hattersley thinks someone assumes too much importance and appears on TV too much (Blair told: focus on policies, August 18).

YOU ask (Leader, August 22) whether enough is being done to ensure that British students at a distance for 2000: that 85 per cent of 19-year-olds should have 5 GCSEs at grade C or above, or an equivalent qualification.

LEVEL pass rates are almost 100 per cent unless we ask, '96 per cent of what?' If a more restricted or more able band of students enters the examination, or the less able have been sifted out beforehand, without any change in difficulty the percentage pass rate will automatically increase.

Put your trust in the Prince

ROS Coward (New Charles takes on the new republic, August 19) argues that assessments of the Prince's Trust 'seem non-existent' and suggests that the trust's community-service programme could be the prototype for tying benefit entitlement to community service.

young people who participate in our community-services programme find jobs or resume their education: 70 per cent of young people who complete the trust's training programme go on to jobs or further training.

Last word

WE hope that David McKie (Step forward, August 21) will glance at our new book, The Art of the Footnote, because it offers writers a means to present complete documentation.

Mr Howard's flexible friend has an identity crisis

THE current debate over the symbols to be displayed on the national identity card has all the hallmarks of a government smoke-screen, encouraging us to discuss trivialities whilst the real questions go unmentioned.

A Country Diary

MACEYNLETH: One day recently I went south to check up on one of our rarest local ferns, the forked spleenwort, which grows on and near lead-mines in the Ystwyth valley.

Mr Howard's flexible friend has an identity crisis

WILL I be allowed the Scottish royal crest on my ID card? The FCO regretted in 1988 that for technical reasons it was not possible to put the crest on passports issued in Scotland but no doubt modern technology has overcome these difficulties.

Mr Howard's flexible friend has an identity crisis

ALREADY have an ID card. I was given to me when I was given a Civil Service clerk who solemnly assured me that if I didn't turn up every where, Hitler would come for me.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'BBC' and other names.

صحنه من الاعمى

In this edited extract from last night's MacTaggart Lecture, John Birt, the BBC Director-General, explains his hopes and fears for the digital age



Gateway to the BBC's future

SOME of the conditions which created our world are ending forever. Our world was borne of spectrum scarcity, a handful of channels and of regulation. The analogue technology which underpinned 70 years of British broadcasting is to give way to a brand new and different technology—digital. The impact will be seismic.

The digital age will have three key characteristics: we enter a world of plenty, where hundreds or thousands of channels and services become possible. We enter a world of interactivity, and we enter a world where services can be obtained from any point on Earth.

We will be able to bank or to shop from our armchairs: moving pictures will lure us to book a holiday; or buy a car or a new pair of football boots. Tap in your PIN number and they'll be delivered direct to your home that night, along with your groceries.

This awesome vision of a mature, interactive, high-quality picture digital future is probably 10-15 years away. But the digital world is already upon us, and advancing rapidly. Indeed, anyone who wants a feel of the digital age should surf the Internet. The dizzy array of web sites—offering valuable information, eccentricity or simply the chance to commune with like-minded individuals—gives an exhilarating insight of our future: global democracy, wars and all.

But if the future of British broadcasting is to be as glorious as its past, then a number of threats, dangers and difficulties need to be overcome—by government, regulators—and by the people working in the industry. And if these difficulties are to be overcome, government will need to make

some bold and speedy decisions; and this industry will need to show far more strategic foresight.

The first danger is that the digital age will be marked not by openness and diversity but by dominance. Broadcasting will be only one among a number of competitors for the attention of the consumer in the home.

When you switch on your TV/PC in the year 2010, I fear BBC1 will not appear as it does now. In all probability, someone will pop up trying to sell you something. The vital gateway into the home in the digital age will be controlled by those who own means of delivery into the home; the navigation system which helps the consumer locate what is available; the encryption system which encodes and decodes the services; the subscriber or transaction management system which extracts payments for services used—probably all contained in a single set-top box.

The battle for control of and a share of the enormous economic value passing through that gateway, will be one of the great business battles shaping the next century. In rival to the 19th-century battle for the railroad or the 20th-century battle for office software systems. But no group should be able to abuse control of that set-top box to inhibit competition. The hallmark of the digital age must be full cultural and economic freedom.

The second set of dangers is that the easy availability of programmes and services worldwide will encourage the emergence of a single global culture, and that the huge increase in competition will result in a drop in programme standards. A single global culture will mean an Americanised world culture. Much of the distribution of new pro-

grammes and services will come via telecom wires and is therefore unstoppable by those who favour quotas or other means.

The way to counteract this force is to husband and cherish our own, and other, rich and unique national cultures, identities and heritages to ensure that real choice remains strong.

We have seen in other countries that when commercial competition bites, choice narrows. I hope ITV, and the Independent Television Commission as regulator, will continue to recognise that ITV is the UK's dominant advertiser-supported network and is likely to remain so for a decade or more to come, and that ITV's programme spend is the best part of £1 billion a year. Contrast that with the anticipated spend of £110 million on Channel 5 and with a reported spend on Sky One of only £36 million. Whilst ITV continues to exploit a valuable public asset—terrestrial frequencies will remain valuable for a while yet—ITV should continue to offer a rich mix of programmes, accessible scheduled, in return for the privilege.

I do not wish to exaggerate. We are not yet in danger, but there are worrying straws in the wind. My heart sank when I heard there was to be a fourth Coronation Street each week. The Street is one of British television's great achievements—an access point to TV drama for generations of writers. An extra edition on special occasions is fine. But please Granada, don't stretch the creative elastic too far. Try

something new. My heart sank still further when I was told that the fourth episode is to be scheduled on Sunday evening, thus threatening a long tradition of weekend schedules which are free-form, constantly varying, and which, at their best, capture the special and different mood of weekend evenings.

My second concern is the fragmentation of support within ITV for ITN. The national interest requires a second strongest news organisation. Of course ITN must be efficient; but its funding should be adequate for its purpose.

We will need measured judgment and a sense of proportion and timing from those who control ITV to ensure that ITV's own long, honourable and distinct programme tradition survives in the rough waters ahead.

But the most effective means of countering the risks of the globalisation of culture, and declining standards will be by sustaining their publicly-funded broadcasters. In the United Kingdom, that means sustaining the BBC.

In the digital age the BBC will be freed like everyone else from the shackles of scarcity, and will help lead the way into the digital age with a programme-led vision. We will offer—perhaps as soon as next year—better picture and sound quality, more choice, and greater convenience. We will supply BBC1 and BBC2 in widescreen, 24-hour news and themed channels exposing the many treasures of the world's richest archive.

The new technology will allow us to offer exciting alternatives to the main channel schedules on BBC1 and BBC2, multiple choices varying from hour to hour. We either join it or be history. The BBC's most lively minds can immediately see the creative possibilities. The digital age will present a formidable financial challenge. The recent financial history of the BBC has been miraculous. There has been no increase in the level of the licence fee, in real terms, since 1985. Indeed there was a 3 per cent cut in the real value of the licence fee in the early nineties.

There has been some growth in our income—from reducing licence fee evasion; and from a slight growth in the number of housing units; but the growth has been modest.

The commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, is a growing success. We are Europe's biggest exporter in broadcasting. But commercial activity still only accounts for 5 per cent of income. The BBC is 95 per cent dependent on the licence fee. Contrast that with our costs in the same period: sports rights costs have risen 800 per cent

receive them, including satellite. And we will need to invest in the extra programme services digital technology will free us to offer.

How can we afford all of this new and substantial investment? The BBC has become practised in self-help, and self-help is where we'll start again.

Digital technology will allow us to make another step-change in our efficiency. We are convinced that we can pioneer and establish new industry standards and bring another leap forward in the BBC's efficiency. We will invest the substantial savings in new digital services for our licence payers.

We can help ourselves further by using the new technologies to introduce a variety of new commercially-funded services, at home and abroad, and to re-invest the gains in our free-to-air services.

But neither a new leap forward in efficiency, nor a vigorous drive to increase our commercial revenue, will be enough. At some point in the future—and for the first time since 1985—we shall need a real increase in the level of the licence fee.

BBC revenue growth should bear some relationship to industry revenue growth. While the BBC has been coping with static funding, money has poured into the rest of the industry. This year, satellite and cable revenues will overtake BBC Television revenue—an historic moment. Sometime around 1998 they will overtake ITV's revenue as well. Over the next 10

years, subscription and pay TV revenues are forecast to grow by around 300 per cent. In the same 10-year period, advertising revenue will grow much more modestly, but still by something like a third.

If the licence fee remains fixed, in real terms, BBC revenues will barely grow. BBC Television's share of industry revenues would drop to around 25 per cent, even though our share of audience would be far higher.

If our relative financial position in the industry were to deteriorate in this way, the BBC's role as the national broadcaster would be diminished. If we are to remain in step with the nation, our licence income should grow as the nation's wealth grows. Over the past 10 years, spend on public services in the UK has grown broadly in line with national wealth. BBC spend has lagged significantly behind. If the BBC is to maintain its role, then its income will need to rise.

The BBC is the most successful cultural institution in the world, one of the great inventions of the 20th century. Let it flourish; let it blossom; let it grow; let it pioneer; let it grow. It is not difficult to see why it became easier to bash the BBC than to reverse it. But do not take the BBC for granted.

John Birt is Director-General of the BBC. This is an edited version of the James MacTaggart Memorial Lecture delivered last night at the Edinburgh Television Festival

Freedom for a captive of history

Thomas Clarkson, the other hero of the anti-slavery movement, is finally being honoured. JOHN EZARD reports on why it has taken so long

THOMAS CLARKSON found the cause which set his life on fire when he was 25. When he won victory in parliament 48 years later, 800,000 slaves were immediately freed across the British Empire and millions of others gained liberty soon after.

Wordsworth wrote a sonnet to him, Coleridge called him "the giant with one idea" and Hazlitt said he was incomparable. Yet Clarkson became one of British history's great forgotten reformers.

Next month this wrong will be righted—in the 150th anniversary year of his death—when he gains a place in Westminster Abbey. A memorial plaque honouring this "friend to slaves" will be unveiled close to the grave of William Wilberforce, the fellow-campaigner who is mainly credited with ending the 19th century trade in humans.

Wilberforce was buried there 180 years ago by public subscription amid worldwide acclaim. Clarkson's name was so eclipsed that two years ago, when Mark Covey joined Anti-Slavery International, which Clarkson helped found—he had never heard of him. The Abbey ceremony on September 25 will finally mark



Campaigner... Thomas Clarkson. MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

the healing of an ancient rift between the two families. "Terrible things" said by Wilberforce's sons were blamed for consigning Clarkson's memory to the shadows after his death.

One of his descendants says: "He has waited 150 years for this and some of us have waited a lot of our own lifetimes for it. Wilberforce was the front-room man who did the parliamentary work and was in the public eye. Clarkson was the back-room man—and sometimes those get overlooked."

Wilberforce's descendant, the retired law lord Lord Wilberforce, aged 88, is acting as a patron for the service, alongside a member of the family, Richard Clarkson, aged 90. Thomas Clarkson has been called Britain's first single-issue campaigner. He was the agitator, researcher and propagandist who rounded up Britain uncaring the facts which appalled public and parliament into banning the slavery trade.

At a time when much of his class was gaining from the profits of slavery, Clarkson investigated and exposed the mortality rates on slave vessels: 45 per cent "under favourable circumstances", 80 per cent "in many other cases".

research gave him sleepless nights. Shortly afterwards, while riding to London with the prize money in his pocket, he had a transforming experience. It was his road to Damascus. He took him in a secular direction, into a lifelong commitment to work against enslavement.

Through publishing his essay he met Wilberforce's adviser John Newton, author of the hymn Amazing Grace. By coincidence, the prime minister, William Pitt, who was an abolitionist, was then urging Wilberforce to take up the issue. Wilberforce, a young, eloquent MP in search of a cause, was hesitant; but Clarkson's essay helped tip the balance.

The two men campaigned amicably and interwove most their lives. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1833. Wilberforce died that year. Clarkson was a worn-out 72-year-old.

Even before he died in 1846, Wilberforce's influential sons—an archdeacon and a bishop—began besmirching Clarkson's name. Keen to stress their father's role, they objected to a chart Clarkson had left showing how anti-slavery support had spread. They accused him of trying to steal sole credit. They dismissed him as "a shabby old romantic" because of his links with Wordsworth and Coleridge.

Privately they apologised to Clarkson for this. But they left their charges on record in their biography of his father. The Dictionary of National

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World Society for the Protection of Animals

G R Samways

Hear the school assembly bell, solemn bell! What a gloom of gloomy thoughts his monodies compel!

JUST how many young readers of the Magnet (price 2d every Monday) would have appreciated that the parody of the poet of doom, Edgar Allan Poe, did not seem to worry the editor of that well-established boys' weekly back in 1928.

Moreover, he had actually written quite a number of the so-called "book length novels" when the creator of the Greyfriars School and the famous Five of the Remove, Charles Hamilton (writing as Frank Richards) had missed his deadline.

The Greyfriars Boys was but one of the regular burlesque verses that formed part of The Greyfriars Herald, a four-page "school magazine" which formed a pull-out supplement to the Magnet.

George Richmond Samways was born in the village of Kingsclere, Hampshire, and was educated at a boarding at the beautiful but extremely strict King Edward VI School in Witley, Surrey.



Easy-peasy... George Samways, writing under the name Dicky Nugent, takes St Sam's to the seaside in the Magnet, 1928

Spiffing way of working

This would also prove a shadow of things to come, for the second half of Samways' career was as a professional contest solver for the many competitions run in such press magazines as John Bull and Tit-Bits.

His first taste of professional writing came when he helped the head's wife win a five shilling postal order from Home Chat, by supplying her with a last line in a limerick competi-

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Monsignor Pierre Claverie

Lasting belief in Algeria

MONSIGNOR Pierre Claverie, who has died aged 58 in a terrorist attack in Algeria, always approached roadblocks with confidence.

His questioner, whether regular soldier or Islamic guard, would wave him on with the respect usually reserved for an Al Hajj — an elder who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Monsignor Claverie, Roman Catholic Bishop of Oran for 15 years, was intellectually, a moving target who irritated Rome as frequently as Algeria's Islamic fundamentalists.

By 1982, after the military cancelled elections which were

Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya. But in post-independence Algeria there was little room for Roman Catholic priests and Claverie became a lecturer in classical Arabic at the University of Algiers.

In 1981, he became Bishop of Oran — an appointment which John Paul II was, at times, to regret.

Born in Algeria of a French "pied-noir" expatriate family, Claverie grew up in the working class area of Bal-el-Oued, in the Algiers. Like other French citizens, he spent his childhood in the "colonial bubble" of French-ruled Algeria.

By 1982, after the military cancelled elections which were



Pierre Claverie... tolerance

set to bring fundamentalists to power, Claverie had become firmly labelled an enemy of Islam. In 1985, he condemned talks between opposition parties and the then Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

By 1982, after the military cancelled elections which were

Harold C Fox

Cloth cut to zoot a mood

HAROLD C Fox, who has died aged 86, was the Chicago clothier who always claimed the zoot suit and its bizarre name were his invention.

It was a sharp and salutary reminder that not everyone was so in love with the patriotic concept of saving the American way of life that they were prepared to jettison their own culture for the sake of what was, for many, an alien and hostile state.



Zooted... Spike Lee (left) and Denzell Washington in Malcolm X

interested in fashion. Fox, earning a living as a salesman and itinerant jazz musician, occasionally made suits for his band from bolts of cloth he obtained on the cheap from his father.

And it was for the suit that people were ready to fight. There were bitter street battles between police and groups of young men determined not to let the war effort overwhelm their cultural pride.

Weekend Birthdays

And it was more. The riots that swept through working-class Los Angeles and Detroit were the first call to arms in the true battle of the century: the war between youth and authority.

IF ONLY there were a court, non-royal, of course, that would appoint Elvis Costello, 41 tomorrow, as Kew-zarmeister.



IF ONLY there were a court, non-royal, of course, that would appoint Elvis Costello, 41 tomorrow, as Kew-zarmeister.

zarmester Costello wouldn't have any problems with output (he says, "I don't release enough — you only get one life"); the organisation — his South Bank Mallowdown mind came off neatly last year;

Today's birthdays: Paul Barker, writer and broadcaster, 61; Liz Bevilacqua, chair, Women's National Commission, 51; Donald Butcher, chairman, United Kingdom Shareholders Association, 67; A S Byatt, novelist, 60; Charles Causley, poet and broadcaster, 75; Carlo Carley, organist, 44; Clifford Parris, Unionist MP, 67; Stephen Fry, actor, writer, 39; Mildred Gordon, Labour MP, 73; Jean-Michel Jarre, composer, 48; Georgina Livingston, landscape architect, 50; Richard Meale, composer, 64; Madson Pirie, president, Adam Smith Institute, 56; Christopher Rodrigues, chief executive, Bradford and Bingley Building Society, 47; Brian Spring, jazz drummer, 50; Sam Torrance, golfer, 43.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: Martin Amis, novelist, 47; Jonathan Ashley-Smith, conservationist, 50; Stikander Eshkol, cricketer, 38; Conrad Black, chairman, Daily and Sunday Telegraph, 62; Sean Connery, actor, 66; Frederick Forsyth, novelist, 58; Lisa Harrow, actress, 58; Howard Jacobson, novelist and critic, 54; Karl Korte, composer, 68; Margaret Rothwell, ambassador, Tony Bennett? First all you do the job, then you get the form right, then the feeling follows.

In Memoriam: SOPHER, Chela. A reunion of friends is being held early on the River Thames at New Gardens, on the 100th anniversary of Chela's death on August 18th 1986 at the age of 92. She was working as an agronomist in the 1920s and then as a nurse. She was buried in a car accident whilst teaching a local farmer to drive, as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations. In the village. There is also today a remembrance in the village. Her memory is still very much alive.

Marriages: LEVERANTYRE on August 24th, 1986 at St Mary's Church, Haslemere, Paul Anthony to Helen Lois Michyns. 10 to place your announcement telephone 071 7 625 625. Fax 071 773 4128.

Face to Faith

Pub open to interpretation

DURING the past year, a debate has raged in evangelical circles concerning a book I wrote, entitled The Post-Evangelical. Evangelicalism, the "born again" branch of the church, has always had something of a revolving door — lots of people enter the movement, but plenty drop out as well.

Due to the negative attitude that evangelicals have towards "secular" culture, a "Christian" ghetto thrives on imitations of the real world with things like "Christian" music and "Christian" radio stations.

There is also the vexed question of moral issues. Evangelicals are famously conservative with regard to morality, as anyone who expresses even a moderately pro-choice position on abortion, or who admits to being gay, can confirm.

The plain fact is that most of the population never dream of going to church. This has led some of us in south London to experiment with a more radical approach by holding meetings on Tuesday nights in a pub.

On the whole, churches empower the clergy and disempower ordinary people — especially those who are unfamiliar with church architecture and church culture.

faith journeys. In a recent savage attack on my book, an evangelical academic complains that post-evangelicals redefine themselves negatively (in terms of what they are not). However, many of us see this as an advantage; the fact that we are post-evangelical is, to us, an exciting statement of being on a journey whose destination is not yet entirely clear.

Post-evangelicals value the past; tradition is important in

world of uncertainty. But surely, tradition should be seen as a fund out of which the Christian journey is re-sourced, and not as a permanent limitation on where that journey might lead?

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

MoneyGuardian

Which plays its cards

Consumers' Association moves into credit market

THE Consumers' Association moved in on the already crowded credit card market this week with the launch of two Visa cards under its Which? brand.

Choosing a credit card has never been trickier. The past year has seen a flood of new cards into the UK as American companies spotted the chance to undercut steep rates charged by high street banks.

But what they give with one hand they can take with the other. Many of the new cards sting customers with heavy annual charges or cut the period before interest charges kick in on money borrowed.

With such a diverse range of charges and interest rates on offer, comparing the true costs of one card against another has become practically impossible. This week's four entrants, who include two shopping centres, neatly illustrate the consumer's plight. The Consumers' Association, shrugging off criticism that it risks compromising its independence by coming up with two run-of-the-mill Visa cards. Its Classic and Gold cards both come with 56 days' interest-free credit, and no annual fee.

The interest charged on the Classic card, an annual percentage rate (APR) of 18.9, is three times the 6.76 per cent bank base lending rate — though there is a six-month introductory rate of 13.9 APR. People with an annual income of more than £20,000 can take out the Gold card, with a lower APR of 16.9

How the charges compare

	APR %	Annual fee	Interest-free credit period	Typical cost £
Consumers Association Classic Visa Card	18.9	Nil	56 days	62.07
Royal Bank AAdvantage MasterCard	14.8	£36	19/25 days	60.58
Lakeside Visa Card	20.2	Nil	56 days	58.62
Prince's Square Visa Card	19.9	Nil	56 days	52.07

APR, or 11.9 per cent in the first six months.

Payment terms are identical for this week's second new piece of plastic, a Visa card from the Prince's Square shopping centre in Glasgow. This is because both the Which? and the Prince's Square cards have been developed by the US-owned Beneficial Bank.

But the third card, a jointly-branded MasterCard from Royal Bank of Scotland and American Airlines, carries a hefty £36 annual fee. The APR, 14.8 per cent, is lower than most of the high street banks' cards, which typically charge around 22 APR, but it rises to 18.7 per cent on August 1, 1989.

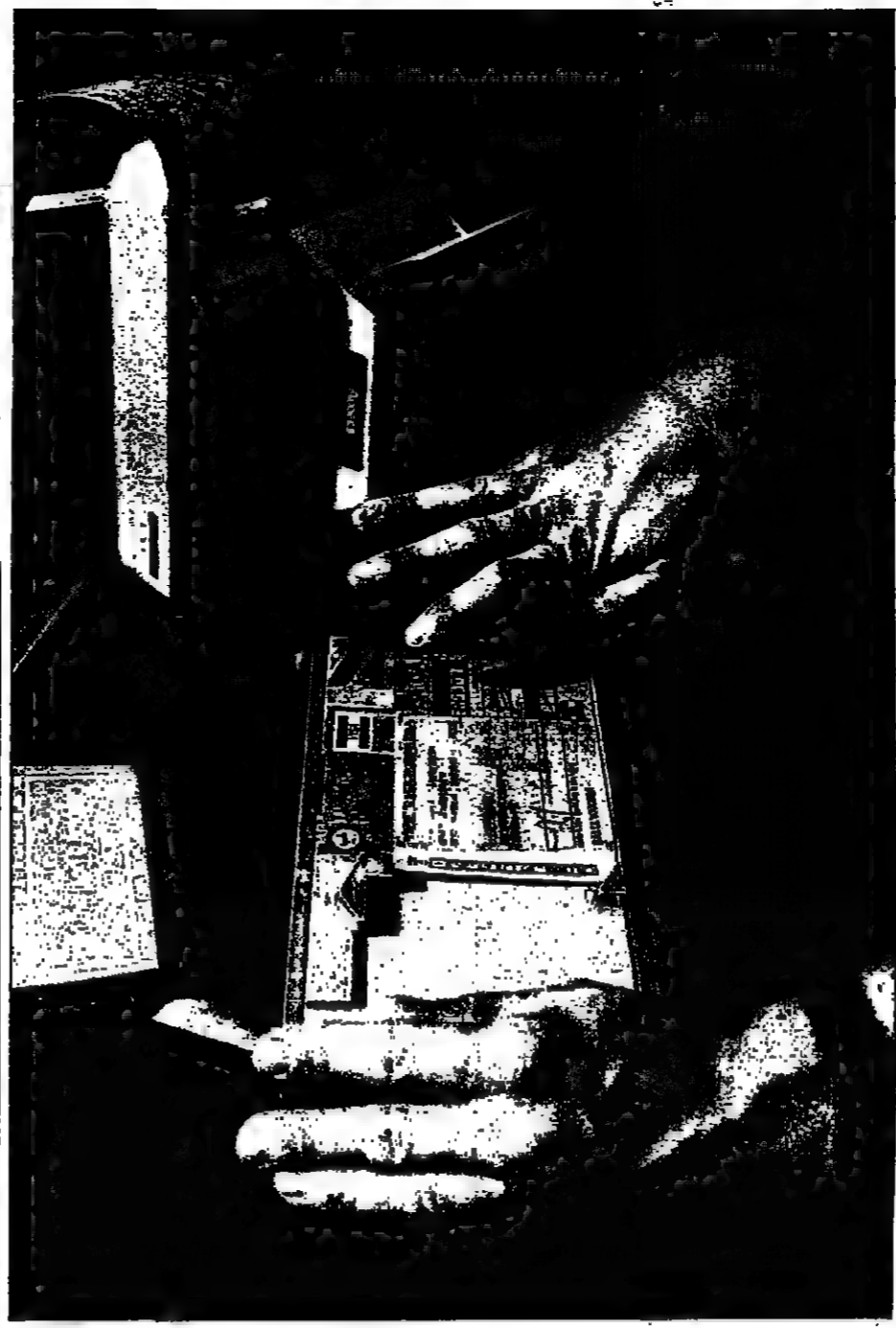
The Royal Bank AAdvantage card also has a far shorter interest-free credit period, at 19 days for full repayment or 25 days otherwise. So you start paying interest that much sooner.

And last but not least, another Visa card, this time from the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex. This has the highest APR at 20.2 per cent, but the interest-free period is at 56 days and there is no annual fee.

The Royal Bank AAdvantage card proved the most expensive on an estimate of the cost to a new customer who spent £1,200 over 12 months, assuming £100 monthly spend but £50 monthly repayment. At more than £80, it costs almost twice as much as the other cards. "This is because of our annual £36 fee," admits a Royal Bank of Scotland spokeswoman.

The Which? card shares the top position with Prince's Square, but the interest on these cards rises after the introductory periods. And these are by no means the cheapest on the market. For cheaper deals, take a look at Fleming/Save & Prosper's no-fee card, which has an APR of just 11.9 per cent. Even Midland Bank is offering an introductory rate of 11.9 per cent on its Visa and MasterCard.

And there is a hidden catch with the Consumers' Association plastic — you must be a member of the association to qualify. That means subscribing to one or more Which? guides each year — which some might consider a fee.



Scitable deal... Varying offers make it hard to choose a card

Spreading a little Abbeyness to N&P members

SHARES or a cash offer worth an average £21,400 will drop through the letterboxes of some 1.3 million National & Provincial members over the next few days.

It is part of a £1.36 billion bonus promised by Abbey National to N&P members for giving their support to its takeover, which was officially cleared earlier this month.

The bulk of the bonuses, around \$875 million, will be paid as cash to savers who had held an account with N&P for more than two years when the deal with Abbey National was announced in April 1988.

The remaining £475 million will be distributed as Abbey National shares, mostly to N&P borrowers and savers who had held accounts for less than two years, though some qualifying savers have also opted for shares.

Each of the 685,000 savers who have plumped for cash will receive a fixed amount of £750, plus an extra payment equivalent to 7.75 per cent of their account's balance on either April 28 last year or August 4 this year, whichever is lower. The money will be credited directly to their Abbey National accounts tomorrow.

Withdrawals will be penalty-free for savers with a notice account. For qualifying Tessa-holders, Abbey National will automatically open an Instant Saver account if they do not already have one. Abbey National shares worth £500 will be despatched to around 438,000 N&P borrowers and non-qualifying savers between next Tuesday and the following Monday. Each will receive 83 shares.

A further 184,000 N&P members, all qualifying savers, will get shares worth £750 plus more shares equivalent to 7.75 per cent of their account's balance, putting them on a par with savers who opted for cash.

All new shareholders will also be eligible for an interim dividend payment of 8.7p per share, due on October 7.

A statutory bonus worth another £3 million will be divided among 670,000 N&P members who were either under the age of 18 on April 11 this year or had less than £100 in their accounts at the end of last year. The average payment is just £4.48.

Abbey National is writing to its 1.3 million new members to explain how their bonuses are calculated.

The bank says it is heartened that 22 per cent of two-year qualifying savers have opted to take shares rather than cash. Top stockbrokers have urged new shareholders to hold on to the stock. Typically in such large share issues, some 20 per cent sell their stock on the first day of trading.

Brian Tork of Greig Middleton says: "Abbey National has more than 10 per cent of the [mortgage] market and there are still big cost savings to come. It does not have the big debts of other banks."

But banking analyst John Aitken, of investment bank UBS, warns that the Abbey National share price might temporarily weaken when trading begins. "Institutions are underweight in Abbey National, so they will probably snap up surplus stock," he says.

Some 665,000 savers will each receive £750

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Vacationing abroad remains hazardous even if you do get the break you booked and pay tour operators' often inflated insurance premiums

Holiday prices stay high as OFT drags feet

Ian Wylie

HOLIDAYMAKERS could miss out on big reductions in holiday prices and insurance premiums next summer unless the Office of Fair Trading speeds up its investigation into the £5 billion travel industry, say independent travel agents and specialist insurers.

Two years ago the OFT gave the travel trade a clean bill of health, but renewed allegations of unfair competition prompted a review of those findings and the OFT was expected to publish the results at the end of last year. Eight months later holidaymakers, travel agents and insurers are still waiting for a verdict which could prompt greater competition and lower prices.

According to an OFT spokesman, their findings will be published within the next two months, but that could be too late for holidaymakers who are booking now for next summer.

The OFT says the delay has been caused by "sensitive" legal procedures, and it is still possible that the Director-General of Fair Trading could refer the ownership of travel agencies like Lunn Poly and Going Places by tour operators such as Thomson and Air-tours to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Independent travel agents claim that holidaymakers are offered a very restricted range of holidays by the major operators, mainly those provided by their parent companies. The big operators are, at least, expected to be asked to give the Director-General assurances that they allow customers greater access to their travel agencies.

The OFT is likely to take an even tougher line on "conditional" selling, where holidaymakers must buy the travel agent's insurance cover to get a particular holiday or discount. It is common knowledge within the trade that travel agents make more out of selling insurance policies — a \$400 million a year business — than they do from holidays.

The policy offered at the point of sale can sometimes be more than twice the price of cover bought separately from companies such as Direct Line or specialist travel insurers like WorldCover Direct, Columbus or Club Direct.

Invariably, policies sold through agents offer standardised cover which cannot be extended or altered to meet the holidaymaker's real needs. Travel policy small print is also under the microscope and the OFT may demand an end to jargon and unclear terms or exclusions in policies.

However, alternatives are emerging to the policies sold by travel agents. Club Direct,



Honeymoon hitch... all Greek to Louise Brown and Phil Howarth. PHOTOGRAPH: DOON MCFEENE

for instance, promises to insure for a wide range of medical conditions, provided travel is not considered detrimental to the applicant's health, while WorldCover Direct has launched the first travel policy priced according to the exact number of days abroad and countries visited.

But while tour operators are complaining that the in-

vestigation is taking up too much of their executives' time, specialist insurers are angry that have not been asked by the OFT for their views. "An end to conditional selling would open up the market and bring huge benefits for holidaymakers in terms of wide cover at cheaper prices," says Jonathan Biles, chief executive of WorldCover

Direct. "So I find it remarkable that the OFT does not want to talk to us."

If conditional selling is banned, most of the large direct and composite insurers are expected to bid for a slice of the market by launching their own policies, despite the fact that travel insurance is notoriously prone to fraudulent claims.

Travel firms under fire over nightmare deals

Paul Stade

TOUR operators are under fire for failing to compensate holidaymakers for delayed and cancelled trips.

As thousands joined the Bank Holiday exodus, travel firms were accused of causing airport delays by promising a "vastly over-optimistic" programme of flights which took no account of air traffic control delays. The Consumers Association criticised firms for offering inadequate compensation.

The holiday firm First Choice waited until the night before a Manchester couple's wedding to tell them that their honeymoon was cancelled, despite having known of the problem three months earlier.

Phil Howarth and Louise Brown were refunded the £740 they paid, with only £25 each in compensation. They booked their trip to the Greek island of Kalymnos through the Going Places travel agency in January, planning to fly out on June 26. At the end of March, First Choice was told the accommodation booked was no longer available. But problems with the company's computer meant this information was "lost" for three months.

The first Mr Howarth and Ms Brown knew of the problem was at 5.20pm on June 21, when Going Places called to say the trip was off.

Going Places told Mr

Howarth that First Choice had cancelled the holiday, giving no explanation. Kate Aldridge of Going Places says the agency had had been informed only that afternoon that the contract between First Choice and the owner of the apartment in Greece where the couple had been booked to stay was cancelled.

Package holiday accommodation is often cancelled when the owner is offered more cash. British holidaymakers are usually at the end of the queue because other nationalities are prepared to pay more. First Choice says about 1 per cent of its 2.5 million annual customers have to switch accommodation.

First Choice offered Howarth and Brown another resort on the same island. But this meant booking into a holiday village.

Maxine Cairne of First Choice says the replacement accommodation was better. But Mr Howarth says: "The last thing we wanted was a holiday village." Mr Howarth and Ms Brown decided to cancel the First Choice booking, and arrange their trip with a rival company. They have complained to the industry organisation Abta.

Because they had to book the replacement before the refund arrived, Mr Howarth and Ms Brown were forced to pay by credit card. Mr Howarth says: "If we hadn't had that credit card available, we wouldn't have been able to have the holiday." While on

Kalymnos, they had a chance to inspect the replacement accommodation they had been offered. "It wasn't particularly pleasant," Mr Howarth says. They were also puzzled to see "for rent" signs at the apartment block they had originally booked.

They had told Going Places that the trip was to be a honeymoon, but First Choice says this information never reached them.

Ms Cairne says: "Sometimes that can make a difference. If someone's made a specific request that they want somewhere quiet, or they don't want to be surrounded by screaming kids, then we'd try and take that on board."

The manager of the Going Places branch in Manchester, where the trip was booked, says the branch gets about a dozen similar cancellations every year.

Owners Abroad, the name by which First Choice was known until 1964, holds the record for the largest fine levied by Abta for offences against the organisation's code of conduct. In 1990, Abta fined Owners Abroad £105,000 for offences involving short-notice cancellations.

Airtours angered holidaymakers this week when the company added a last-minute "flight supplement" of £30 to the price of holidays.

Airtours says that by removing from travel agents' shelves brochures showing the supplement it has remained within the law.

Amex will now do nicely at all Sainsbury's outlets

Richard Miles

SAINSBURY'S has become the first major supermarket in Britain to accept American Express cards in all its stores. From September 2, Amex cards will be welcome at all superstores, petrol stations and Savacentres.

Customers who use Amex to pay for goods at Sainsbury's will receive double the usual amount of membership reward points until the end of October.

Computer errors and administrative blunders were highlighted again this week when Marks & Spencer announced that it will introduce new safeguards to protect its customers from the possibility of double charging when paying by direct debit.

Due to an electronic glitch, some £3 million too much was deducted from the bank accounts of 4,000 M&S charge card and personal loan customers between August 10 and 12.

Similarly, Abbey National confirmed this week that around 10,000 mortgage applications with National & Provincial could be delayed by up to a week because of the

deal was completed. Abbey National has promised to compensate homebuyers if they suffered a loss because of the delay.

Earlier this month Abbey National admitted that thousands of direct debit payments for endowment mortgage premiums were accidentally cancelled, rather than being amended, following the current takeover.

In a continuing effort to avoid confusion for its customers Barclays Bank is planning to produce a new look statement which, it hopes, will make understanding your finances as easy as reading your morning newspaper.

Marks & Spencer has introduced new safeguards after £5 million too much was taken from charge card and personal loan accounts

current takeover. The lender said that the backlog of applications had been caused by N&P's efforts to merge 22 separate administrative centres shortly before the takeover.

The revamped statement will closely resemble the familiar section of a typical telephone bill, clearly spelling out the date and method of payment. In the new statements banking jargon which has been used for the past 30 years will be discarded in favour of more consumer-friendly and readily understandable terms such as money-in and money-out.

Barclays says it intends to start sending out the revamped statements to all its 11 million personal and business customers in the New Year. The move follows a massive investment in new computer systems and printers.

Battle to take Kepit hots up

Richard Miles

THE battle for control of Kepit, the ailing £500 million European privatisation investment trust, intensified this week as Henderson's TR European Growth fund upped its bid.

Henderson's revised bid effectively promises Kepit's 65,000 shareholders 100p for each pound invested in the trust, an improvement of approximately 8 per cent on the original offer.

As Henderson wants to wind up Kepit, shareholders will be asked to take cash by the end of November or a combination of cash plus shares and warrants in the £165 million TREG fund.

But Kepit's board is also considering proposals from nine other fund managers, including the incumbent Kettlewell Benson, which wants to convert the trust into a unit trust, enabling those shareholders who might want cash to take it.

The other bidders are Morgan Grenfell, Fidelity, Fleming, Guinness Flight, M&O, Invesco, Barings and Old Mutual. Kepit's board is likely to make its recommendation to shareholders within the next two weeks.

A similar decision faces investors who bought partly-paid shares in National Power and PowerGen in the final phase of privatisation last year. They must decide whether to pay the third and final

instalment by Thursday September 12.

The third instalment in National Power will cost 136p per share, while the price for PowerGen is slightly higher at 142p. Around 230,000 investors who opted for a discount will pay 121p and 127p.

The Government, aiming to raise £800 million from the final instalment, this week warned investors who

The board is also considering proposals from nine other fund managers

fail to stump up the cash that it will sell their shares and return the money less administrative fees.

Cheques should reach the share registrars by September 12.

PowerGen's registrar is the Royal Bank of Scotland, while Lloyds Bank acts on behalf of National Power. Nominees and share shops have an extended deadline of September 17.

Around £2.7 billion was raised with the first two instalments of Genco II. National Power and PowerGen were created when the Government split the old Central Electricity Generating Board and sold off 60 per cent of the share capital.

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Taxing times on the way

New regime will shift burden from state to individual

Chris Chadburn

THE introduction of self-assessment in April 1997 is being sold by the Inland Revenue as very much a change for the better. Self-assessment, we are confidently told, will be "more straightforward. It modernises and it is clearer and simpler and easier to understand."

No downsides at all? Perhaps not from "Hector the Inspector's" perspective, shifting as it will the assessment and collection burden of taxation from the state to the taxpayer.

New rules are being introduced which will use automatic and fixed-interest surcharges and penalties to encourage taxpayers to fall into line. And self-assessment provides the opportu-

returns are suspect. Such reasons will be made clear to the taxpayer and his adviser at the outset. Grounds for dissatisfaction may be clear-cut — a bank has to provide details of interest to the authorities which may indicate, for example, that a taxpayer has hidden accounts.

They might be more nebulous — a car dealer's clearly lavish lifestyle not matching the income he is showing from his business, for example. So one would have a good idea where the inspector is coming from when he or she decides to challenge your return or accounts.

The whole basis for an inspector's challenge, and power to obtain information such as business books or private bank statements, is that a *prima facie* case has to be made out. Accordingly, speculative investigations should not arise.

Not for much longer. From next April the inspector will have the statutory right to inquire into the returns and obtain relevant

documents of any individual and unincorporated businesses. In the future similar provisions will apply to companies, probably taking effect some time in 1999.

The Inland Revenue acknowledges that, as self-assessment beds in, there will be a shift of staff away from assessment and collection into inquiry work. In the first year, while the vast majority of inquiries will still be into individuals suspected of evading tax, the Inland Revenue anticipates that up to 10,000 purely ran-

dom audits will be undertaken. So why should the honest taxpayer be concerned? First, there does seem to have been a significant erosion of our rights with very little public debate. In practical terms, any detailed review by the inspector involves the individual in time, trouble and expense. Inquiries can now be made

into any person or business, and the chances that "it could be you" are much higher than those of winning the National Lottery. The new powers make it easier for inspectors to review larger or more complex cases and the Revenue is committed to moving more upmarket. They also acknowledge they need "time to develop the skills and techniques needed for more inquiries into such cases". This sounds like more time, trouble and expense for those eventually targeted, whether they are found guilty or innocent.

Finally, the professional press is voicing mounting concern that self-assessment is going to hit hardest those least able to cope. Many on low incomes and with minimal assets find it difficult to cope with the present system and are often unable to afford professional help. They are unlikely to welcome demands for voluminous returns, an inflexible surcharge/penalty regime and the actions of inspectors armed with new powers.

Self-assessment will introduce powers which tax inspectors have longed for since the mid-seventies

Refuge gives £101 million bonus pledge

Cashpoints

REFUGE Assurance will get bonuses worth a total of £101 million whether the merger with United Friendly goes ahead or not, the insurer said yesterday.

Fund manager Perpetual holds 7 per cent of the company's shares and this week threatened to vote against the merger, claiming its terms give Refuge shareholders a poor deal.

However, stockbroker Merrill Lynch's life analyst Roman Cizdyn said Perpetual was not powerful enough to prevent the merger and that he expected it to proceed on the terms Refuge proposed.

BRADFORD & Bingley Building Society has cut interest rates on its range of investment accounts by 0.3 percentage points.

Deposits of at least £500 in its instant access account now return 2.2 per cent before tax (1.76 per cent net). New rates on at least £10,000 invested in its Bonus account drop to 5.3 per cent gross (4.24 per cent net). The society has unveiled a new fixed-interest savings bond paying 7 per cent before tax (5.6 per cent net) on a minimum investment of £1,000, provided the cash remains on deposit until November 25, 1999.

NATIONAL Savings has filed its annual report, posting

a record £5.13 billion net contribution to the Government.

The appeal of the Pensioners Bond, enhanced by the Chancellor in the last budget when he dropped the qualifying age to 80 and raised the investment ceiling to £30,000 attracted £2.3 billion in new money.

Changes made to the Premium Bonds prize structure, giving away £1 million a month early in the year boosted sales to £1.5 billion.

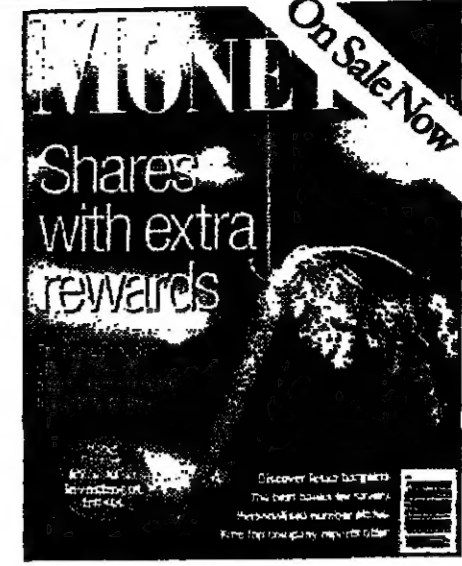
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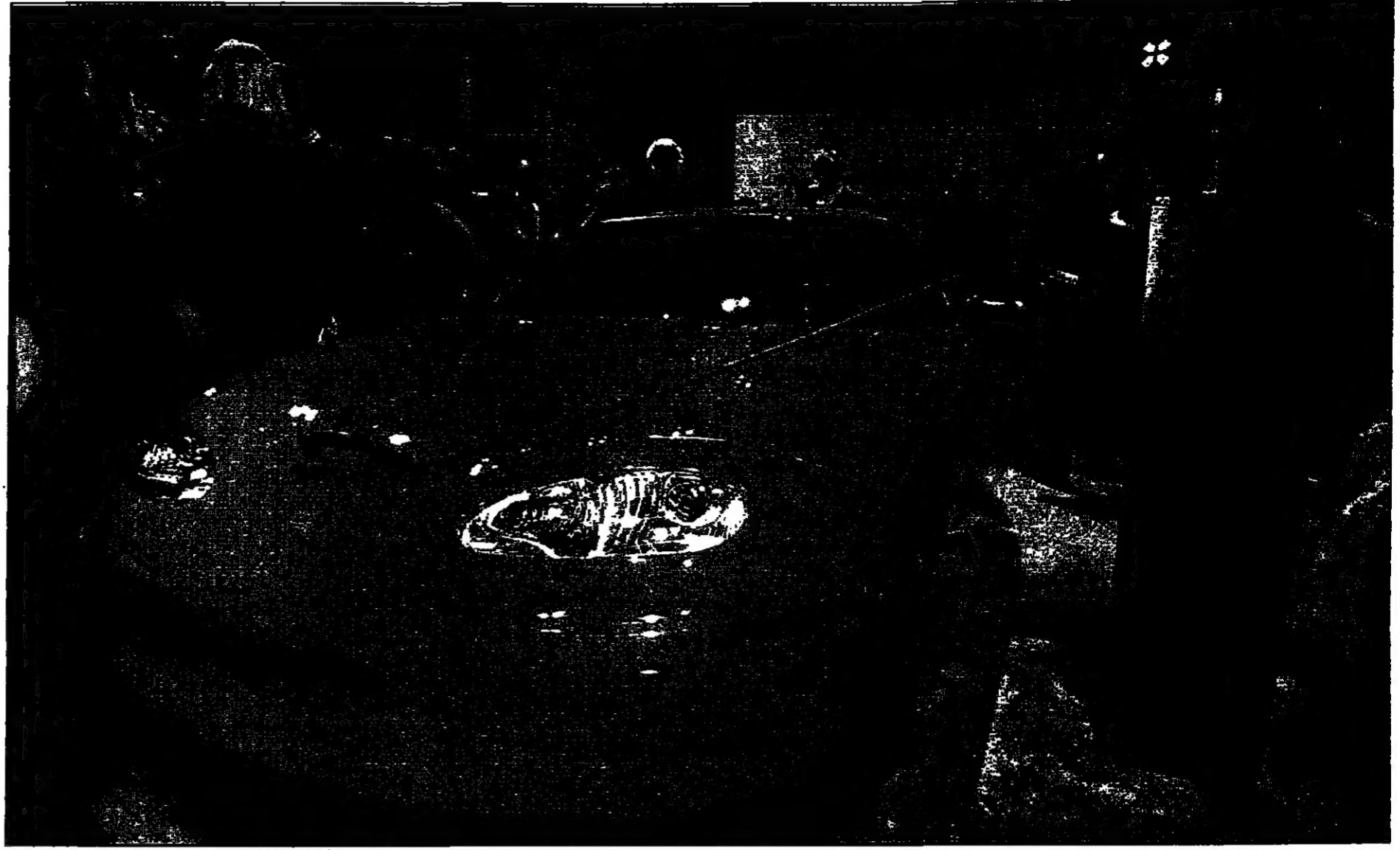
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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

Motor City turns on the power

MARK TRAN in Detroit hails the 'clean' production car, but NICHOLAS BANNISTER says capacity is still a snag



Celebs' delight... Hollywood tree-huggers may want one, but a green plus isn't enough, admit carmakers, to sway most American consumers

PHOTOGRAPH: IAN HULISH

IT IS named the EV1. It is powered by electricity. But far from being an updated milk-float or Sinclair C5, it is being touted as the world's most advanced car. General Motors, which has spent \$350 million on its development, hopes to steal a march on its rivals with the two-seater. But the future of the American car industry — arguably the world industry — will be riding on the success or failure of the \$22,000 (\$22,800) car. The need for such vehicles was highlighted this week when the British Government announced a crackdown on air pollution and charged local councils with drawing up plans to curb emissions. The era of the clean or electric car is rapidly approaching. To underline its commitment GM put the EV1, sur-

rounded by its 300-strong team, on the cover of its 1996 annual report. Detractors have scoffed at GM's huge investment, but the company believes it has acquired invaluable expertise in a market it has created overnight. Competitors have voiced scepticism that GM will see any return on its six-year investment. But with its sights set on the world market, it is already working on the next generation of electric vehicles, with megacities such as Mexico City, Sao Paulo and Beijing fuelling demand for an affordable, non-polluting car. GM chairman John Smith has described the EV1 as the first product in a "portfolio of products" for the market. Since GM announced that the EV1 will go on sale in October, Toyota, Honda and Ford have said they will follow suit.

In Europe, France has run the world's biggest trial yet for electric cars, with Peugeot-Citroen. Next year a new experiment, Tulp, will test demand in Tours for electric hire-cars. But for now the EV1 holds centre-stage as it goes on sale in Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Tucson. It will be a warm-weather car as heat requirements in a cold climate would drain too much energy. Orders have already started coming in — chat-show supremo Jay Leno says he wants one, and several trendy LA restaurants have offered to install the battery charger in their car parks for free. The EV1 has the Hollywood tree-hugging celebrity market sewn up. But selling it to more ordinary folk will be tough, especially when you can buy a Cadillac or a Jeep

Grand Cherokee for the same money. The EV1 experience begins even before you get in. No keys are needed. You punch in your code on a series of numbers by the door to unlock it. The same code starts the car. The engine is eerily quiet, emitting a high-pitched whine as you accelerate. Engine noise could have been ultra-low, but test drivers wanted to be able to hear it. Acceleration is fast, reflecting the influence of the Lotus design engineers. No golf cart, the EV1 can reach 60mph in 8.5 seconds, and top speed is 80mph; its range is 70 miles for the city and 90 miles for motorway driving. The EV1 is powered by a T-shaped battery-pack, consisting of 26 12-volt lead acid modules. It takes roughly three hours to recharge the battery

using a weatherproof paddle inserted into a letter-box-type slot in the nose of the car. A 220-volt charger is expected to cost \$2,000. The EV1 will be the first car to bear the GM logo, a testament to the combined effort of various company subsidiaries — including Hughes Electronics, which supplied its aerospace and defence technology expertise. GM officials say the EV1 was built more like an aircraft than a car. The chassis is made of aluminium and weighs less than 20 stones. Many of the EV1's lightweight innovations will be incorporated in GM's traditional cars. It may be asked why it has taken so long for manufacturers to come up with a commercially viable electric car. GM, for one, has a long experience of electric vehicle production, reaching back to its 1912

trucks. Indeed, at the turn of the century, the number one form of mechanised transport in the US was the steam-powered car, followed by electric cars and then by petrol-burning, internal combustion motors. In a sense, history has come full circle. "With the environmental pressures we face, there is a requirement for a clean, quiet vehicle. Electric cars will find their place. This will not be a short-term phenomenon," said Bob Purcell, executive director of GM Electric Vehicles. Political pressures have played their part, with California leading the campaign for cleaner cars. It applied rigorous exhaust pollution standards in the sixties and seventies, and the state forced the development of catalytic converters on exhausts, now fitted as standard equipment. After GM announced its decision to market the EV1, California came out with emission rules requiring that 2 per cent of manufacturers' sales (20,000 cars) be zero emission, or electric, by 1998. But pressure from the carmakers made the state drop its directive. GM and others argued that a deadline would force manufacturers to start marketing electric cars, whether they were any good or not. While this sounds self-serving, GM's decision coupled with the state of California's consideration of zero emission guidelines may have been enough to create the market. "The EV1 has had to wait for the necessary technological breakthroughs. While most have focused on battery development, engineers and technicians also had to come up with

the appropriate power-switching devices to convert DC to AC power and feed it to the motor. That switching technology emerged from Sunraycer, a solar energy-recharged electric vehicle that won the 1987 Solar Challenge in Australia. In preparation for the EV1's debut, GM built 30 test cars in 11 cities, where families drove the cars for two weeks at a time. It found widespread acceptance as a third car, available for running errands, where the typical 40-mile commuter trip was well within the EV1's range. Test families said if it had a 100-mile range it would definitely become the family's second car, and GM is confident that the next generation of electric cars will achieve that range.

long-term strategy, the EV1 has already been shipped to Beijing for test drives by senior Chinese government officials. GM chairman John Smith believes that the developing countries will provide excellent opportunities for a cheap advanced vehicle, one step up from the motor scooter. China has already expressed a strong interest in electric cars, for obvious reasons, and has the technical competence to sustain a mass market for them. Battery-powered cars are not the only avenue of research for non-combustion engines. Fuel-cell cars are another form of hybrid — hybrids use a power source which produces electricity to overcome battery limitations. Mercedes-Benz has been experimenting with a fuel-cell car, shrinking the power system so that it fits into a normal car. There are also cars which run on compressed natural gas or liquid alternatives to petrol and diesel. But only electric cars qualify as zero emission vehicles. GM displayed the first ads for EV1 during the Atlanta Olympics, appealing to consumers' desire for cutting-edge products. Mr Purcell believes EV1's strongest selling point is that it finally delivers on a product that always seemed to be five years away. "What is unique about the EV1 is that it is here today and that you will be driving the world's most advanced automobile," he said. In keeping with the emphasis on the futuristic, it is no wonder that GM's name for its new product sounds more like an aircraft than a car.

False dawns on r&d road to the super battery

SCIENTISTS around the world are racing to develop a super-efficient battery capable of powering cars over long distances in all weathers. But despite research costing billions, the battery still remains the biggest problem in developing an electric car that can rival its petrol-engined counterpart. "People have been researching this for many years, and no one has come up with anything significantly better," said Aubrey Corbett, of Warwick Uni-

versity's engineering department. "So we must make the best of what we have today." As a result, many car firms are looking at hybrid vehicles — battery-powered vehicles with a petrol engine for long journeys. There have been some false dawns. "The sodium-sulphur battery was hailed as a breakthrough, but it had to be abandoned for road vehicles on safety grounds," Mr Corbett said. The temperatures involved would have been too high. Manufacturers are faced

with the problem of how to provide the ancillary electrical activities, such as heating and lighting, without unduly draining the batteries. There have been attempts to overcome problems such as heating by having a separate thermal store, but these are very heavy, requiring more power to propel the vehicle, thus reducing the effectiveness of the main drive batteries. Researchers are looking at ways of conserving the much smaller amount of waste heat generated by a

battery-powered engine through better insulation. Rechargeable batteries have to be replaced every three or four years, though most of the parts are recyclable and processes have been developed for disposing of noxious materials. There have been significant developments in the use of photo-voltaic cells to harness the sun's energy, but Mr Corbett said they were still far too costly. Ken Lilley, of Rover's electric and hybrid car team, said the biggest challenge was not so much a bat-

tery's weight or size but its cost. "I do not think we are looking at a breakthrough which will make a battery anything like a tank of fuel, which in energy density terms is 50 to 100 times better," he said. "But improvements are being made, so we can expect a range of 100 miles for a production car rather than a prototype in the next five years." He said electric cars were not just environmentally friendly — "they have an ease of operation, smoothness, quietness and plenty of acceleration".

GM and others argued that a deadline would force manufacturers to start marketing electric cars, whether they were any good or not. While this sounds self-serving, GM's decision coupled with the state of California's consideration of zero emission guidelines may have been enough to create the market. "The EV1 has had to wait for the necessary technological breakthroughs. While most have focused on battery development, engineers and technicians also had to come up with

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New target, same sell
Sarah Whitebloom
PLUNGING downmarket is an unusual and risky strategy for any retail business. When a high street bank does it, there has to be a catch. NatWest's latest series of television adverts — featuring an urban family's exploits in the country — are certainly a bold move away from the traditional banking industry commercials. Whether it has been Leo McKern's solid presence or a clean-cut youth buying a flat in a trendy street, where the neighbours play saxophones on balconies, bank adverts have been aspirational, reassuring and, most of all, very middle class. This strategy has clearly been designed to appeal to the wish for banks to be solid and prudent but nevertheless approachable. NatWest's new flag-carrying family does not fit into this pattern.

Quick Crossword No. 8213
TRANSFORM
AFTERNOON
GOLF
A SURETIDLE
DOCTOR DRUDGE
V A E E A N
ANTHEM MASTIC
THE MAKEDAY
A R STRAINING
CRAW E O O
E D ARRESTING
Solution No. 8114
Across
1 First book of the Bible (7)
8 Silent — never brought to court? (7)
9 Meantime (7)
10 Dark, sour cherry (7)
11 Happening (5)
13 Removes forcefully (5,4)
15 Are to cope (anag) — work together (9)
19 Very stupid (5)
21 Eyeless (7)
22 Capital of former Burma (7)
23 Hate (7)
24 Extract, by distillation (7)
Down
1 Ingrained dirt (5)
2 Saltpeetre (5)
3 Injured person, needs carrying (9,4)
4 Season (6)
5 Half a minute! (6,7)
6 Unhealthy pale — tree (5)
7 Foolishness (5)
12 Power of rejecting legislation (4)
14 Hebrew prophet (4)
15 Amusing play (6)
16 Decorated (5)
17 Unwilling (5)
19 Oak tree fruit (5)
20 Bum surface of (5)
2X Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 248. Calls cost 39p per min, charge rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS.

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